

MONTANA KAIMIN

GRIZZLY THREE-PEAT?

Montana's basketball dynasty
continues into 2020



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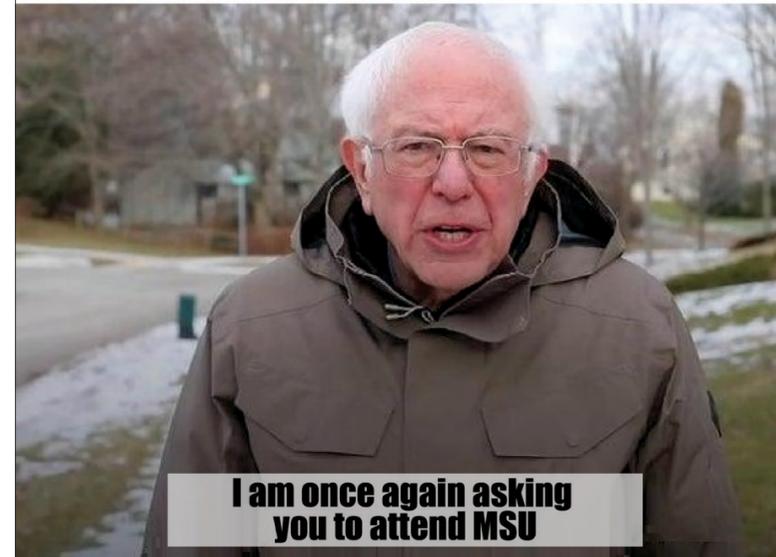
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To email address manmenteer@gmail.com

No One:
Montana State Recruiters:



MSU's new recruitment strategy ain't it

It seems like Montana State University's new recruitment strategy is to email current University of Montana students at 4:38 a.m. Whether MSU's graduate program is reaching out to UM students to encourage them to apply, or simply congratulating students for making UM's dean's list, it's a little bit jarring to wake up to MSU thanking us for our "interest in Montana State University."

We realize MSU typically blazes ahead of UM in recruitment tactics, but this one seems like it isn't quite right. After the absurd amount of phishing emails UM students have been subjected to, it might have been easy to write the first wave of grad school emails off as spam. But there's more to it than that.

MSU sending current UM students emails is happening now — and not earlier — because of revisions to the National Association of College Admissions Counseling's Code of Ethics and Provisional Practices, after an investigation from the antitrust division of the Department of Justice.

One of the revisions to NACAC's code of ethics is the removal of language that stops colleges from recruiting students after they commit to a college, which stated that "once

students have committed themselves to a college, other colleges must respect that choice and cease recruiting them." The revision was made in favor of allowing colleges to be more competitive in their recruitment tactics.

To put it simply, colleges like MSU are trying to poach current students from rival universities, targeting the potential transfer-student population.

The revision has been called "aggressive" and "unethical" by commentators and, according to reporting from the Missoulian, UM has no plans of following suit. But UM, like many other universities, struggles with student retention rates, and now they have other universities actively reminding students there might be something better out there.

But more than just that, this revision sets a precedent for going after students after they make their decision, one that, for a lot of us, was a difficult choice to make. By using this competitive tactic, MSU is ignoring that fact, and leaving students feeling less like students and more like financial commodities.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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:

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

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COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN



Unruly rockers keep University police busy

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FEB. 22: SHHH.

UMPD officers arrived at Lewis and Clark after receiving a complaint about some noisy neighbors. UMPD officers arrived and asked an apparent party to quiet down. The party hosts closed the windows and door and turned the music down a bit to conform to the requests.

FEB. 23: GYM RAT

A man inside the rec center was pacing back and forth and yelling. A caller informed UMPD about the suspicious behavior and officers went and talked to him. The man said he was just listening to music.

FEB. 23: ONLINE SHOPPING

Thankfully administrators were paying attention when a bill was charged to a closed business services account and a package showed up to the UM business building. Quill.com, an online-shopping website, accidentally sent the UM busi-

ness building the two unclaimed projectors worth \$1,600 with no packing slip. With nobody claiming the pricey projectors, they were returned for a refund.

FEB. 23: PHONE, WALLET BUT WHY THE CIGS?

One Korn concert goer's fun night ended early when they returned to their car to find it had been broken into. No suspect was identified and the concert-goer was left without a wallet, phone and a pack of cigarettes

FEB. 24: NO. 1 FAN

Shortly after the Korn concert ended, one superfan repeatedly tried to meet the esteemed members of Korn backstage. Refusing to accept failure, the "Korny" was escorted out by UMPD officers.

FEB. 28: CAUGHT GREEN HANDED

A neighbor reported the smell of some raunchy reefer coming from an apartment at the University Villages. Officers detected the apartment from the wafting odor and knocked on the door. The resident admitted to smoking but had nothing left. The reefer-less resident was referred for student conduct.

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U.S. SUPREME COURT WON'T ADDRESS KRAKAUER'S REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTS

In a win for students' right to privacy, the U.S. Supreme Court will not consider author Jon Krakauer's request to review the educational records of a former University of Montana quarterback accused of rape in 2012, according to the Associated Press. Former Griz quarterback Jordan Johnson was acquitted of all charges related to the accusation in Missoula County Court in 2013. Krakauer initially requested to review documents in 2014 that detailed how the Montana Office of Commissioner of Higher Education handled Johnson's expulsion and subsequent reinstatement to UM. But University officials denied Krakauer access, citing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Krakauer challenged the move in Lewis and Clark County District Court, winning the right to access the documents in 2018. However, the Montana State Supreme Court

reversed the lower court's decision 4-3 a year later. The court argued that Johnson's right to privacy as a student outweighed the public's right to know what occurred. Krakauer appealed the decision to the Supreme Court, which declined to review the case on Monday, Feb. 24.

UM SEEKS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

The University of Montana submitted project proposals to the Montana Board of Regents for safety upgrades, building renovations and new construction on campus. UM is requesting funds from the state's long range building program (LRBP), according to a press release. Other funding for the proposed projects will come from private donations and bond sales. Some of the projects include emergency phones, electronic locks, a new lab and renovations to the Music Building. The University is requesting \$7.5 million from the LRBP for Music Building renovations alone. The Board of Regents will vote on the proposals

at their meeting in Dillon on March 5-6. The funds will be decided during the 2021 Montana legislative session. **FIRST COVID-19 DEATHS IN U.S. CONFIRMED**

A man near Seattle who contracted a novel Coronavirus strain first reported in Wuhan, China died from the disease Saturday, Feb. 29, according to The Seattle Times. The man, in his fifties, was the first person on U.S. soil to die from the Covid-19 outbreak, which has claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 people. President Trump held a press conference Saturday, where he urged Americans not to panic amidst the health crisis. "We have it so well under control," he said. "I mean, we really have done a very good job." During the conference, Trump announced increased travel restrictions affecting visitors from Iran, Italy and South Korea. As of March 2, six people have died in Washington of Coronavirus.

ASUM distributes student group funds based on inclusiveness

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Each group's inclusiveness, in addition to member numbers, factored into how ASUM divided over \$100,000 among more than 150 student groups during ASUM's 2020 budgeting process.

The student senate, which reviews financial requests and distributes funds, released a final budget for the 2020-2021 academic year Tuesday, Feb. 25.

This year, funds were allocated to student groups primarily based on the "dollar/person" system, according to ASUM Business Manager Daniel Parsons. This means the number of active group members primarily determined how much funding each group received. However, senators also considered offering more money to student groups that demonstrated outreach, or organized activities and events that benefited most of the student body.

These factors have been used to

determine funding in the past, but this year, ASUM implemented a new factor — inclusiveness. Although the idea has been applied to groups in case-by-case situations in the past, this was the Senate's first year applying the factor to all student groups.

"[The Senate] argued that this allowed for the reach of the student group to be larger if it meant that more people could join and partake in activities," Parsons said. "And that membership wasn't restricted based on things like GPA requirements or academic affiliation."

When applying for funds, student group representatives attended a meeting in which the requirements for the formal budgeting process were outlined. The student group had to submit a copy of its financial request to Parsons and ASUM Student Coordinator McKenzie Carter. Afterward, the student group lobbied for its respective cause to the Senate. The Senate decided how the funds would be allocated to each of the student

groups, according to the ASUM website.

The Lambda Alliance, which received over \$2,100, was one of the student groups to receive the most funding. This student group supports the LGBTQ community at UM. The Lambda Alliance plans to use ASUM funding to support the group's outreach coordinator, Elliot Hobaugh, who manages the administrative side of their club, according to Lambda Alliance member Raleigh Nordhagen.

The Pillowfight Women's Ultimate Frisbee club also received ASUM student group funds. It plans to use the money received to help pay for a variety of costs.

"We mostly use the funds to go to tournaments. It helps pay for the tournament fee and gas, since we usually drive in our own personal vehicles," said Pillowfight Vice President Lillian Vaughn.

Final budgeting results can be obtained at the ASUM Office in the University Center.



DAYLIN SCOTT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Homeland Security grades UM's cybersecurity in confidential assessment

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The Department of Homeland Security recently evaluated the University of Montana on its cybersecurity, but only one person on campus can see the results.

Rena Scott, UM's chief information officer, requested that DHS conduct a Cyber Resilience Review, a free service that evaluates an organization based on categories like incident management, training and awareness. But she had to receive clearance from DHS to see the assessment results.

"I take my job seriously," Scott said. "As a new CIO, I felt obligated to understand what I was inheriting and where we stood."

Scott said she was familiar with the service because she spent time in Houston, Texas, at Rice University, which she said used it extensively. She first came to UM as assistant CIO in

January 2017, served as interim CIO beginning in August 2018 and became the permanent CIO last May.

Jason Sloat, UM risk and insurance manager, said cybersecurity is one of the biggest threats to the state of Montana in general.

"Within the state government and state agencies, the number of attacks that are attempted on a daily and weekly and monthly basis is astronomical," Sloat said.

DHS partnered with Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute to create the service, according to the department's website. DHS sends a representative to evaluate cybersecurity and provides an assessment on how the institution compares, in this case, to other universities.

Scott said the representative visited last September, met with staff and asked a lot of questions. She received a draft assessment in October, which she reviewed with DHS.

"It helped inform as to where we're on the right path and where we had a little room for improvement," Scott said.

Scott said one area of IT that needs improvement is communication. UM recently sent an alert about email phishing, and Scott said it plans to do more. She said the assessment could provide examples of best practices, like sending a monthly newsletter.

The Critical Infrastructure Information Act of 2002 exempts information shared in the assessment from disclosure laws, including the Freedom of Information Act, according to the DHS website.

UM is also in the process of hiring a chief information security officer. Scott said the officer would report to her and manage the other IT security staff. She initially advocated for creating the new position and UM provided additional funding for it.

"I think it's my job to do the best I can with

the team to protect the University's assets, and those assets are data," Scott said. "We do our best to keep it confidential, and that's where these assessments come in."

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Student performers honor playwright in dedication of new meeting space

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Two theater students stood before a huddled group of spectators and sang the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” on Friday, Feb. 21.

“I am grateful to be here, speaking in a space named after Lorraine Hansberry,” student performer Elijah Fisher said. “The Lorraine V. Hansberry Flexible Meeting Space to be specific.”

Hansberry was a playwright and activist during the civil rights movement, until she died from pancreatic cancer at 34 in 1965. Some of her notable works include “Les Blanc” and “A Raisin in the Sun,” which was the first play performed on Broadway written by a Black playwright. At 29, she was also the youngest person and first Black playwright to win the New York Critics’ Circle award.

“If she didn’t die, she was going to change the world,” Fisher said. “And she did, she changed the world at a very young age.”

Tobin Miller Shearer, a history professor and director of African American Studies, gave a dedication speech about Hansberry’s life before the student performance. He said Hansberry did not live an easy or pretty life, but one full of hardships.

“She was far more radical in her challenge to white supremacy than most contemporary accounts give her credit for,” Shearer said.

As a child, Hansberry’s family was attacked by a mob in front of their own home because they bought a house in an all-white neighborhood. When Hansberry grew up, she lived a life of activism, giving speeches at civil rights events and celebrating the strengths and complexity of Black women in her writing. She called out social injustice around sexism, racism and homophobia.

“I think in terms of the way she was able to speak to such wide-ranging audiences defines the very nature of the word flexibility,” Shearer said.

The flexible meeting space is in the counseling section of the new wing in the Phyllis J. Washington education building. The donor, Andy Hugos, didn’t want his name on the plaque, but he did specify he wanted it to be a flexible space.

“It’s a gathering space, where you come and you talk or you study or you share. It’s a think tank. It’s for ideas,” said Nikki Strizich, the director of development for the college of education. “It’s whatever you want it to be, but it’s collaborative.”

The new meeting space is tucked in a corner of the building. It features a couple of movable couches and tables, a plaque with Hansber-



The designated meeting space named after Lorraine V. Hansberry in the Phyllis J. Washington education building. Hansberry was an activist, artist and playwright. EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

ry’s name on it and large windows opening the space up to the view of Missoula’s mountains.

“I am grateful to have a space named after Lorraine Hansberry because it is a step in the right direction,” Fisher said to spectators at the dedication. “I am excited to see more steps. Maybe a whole building.”

Amirra Patterson, the other student performer, read part of a speech Hansberry gave about the complexity of African American and African cultures two weeks before “A Raisin in the Sun” opened on Broadway.

“The ultimate destiny and aspirations of the African peoples and the 20 million American Negroes are inextricably and magnificently bound up together,” Patterson read from the Hansberry speech.

Then Fisher and Patterson performed a scene from “A Raisin in the Sun” together. The scene is performed between the characters Beneatha, an African American woman, and Asaigi, a man from Nigeria. The scene illustrated the complexity spoken of in Hansberry’s speech.

“I know that’s what you think. Because you are

still where I left off,” Patterson said as Beneatha. “You with all your talk and dreams about Africa! You still think you can patch up the world. Cure the Great Sore of Colonialism with the Penicillin of Independence.”

Afterward, Fisher performed a monologue from “Les Blanc” by the character Tshembe. The scene illustrates the complexity of anger in Black communities. The character says in his monologue, “I do not ‘hate’ all white men, but I desperately wish that I did.”

The students finished by answering the question, “What does recognition of a Black artist like Lorraine Hansberry mean for an aspiring artist like yourself?”

Fisher described a future where the recognition goes beyond one room, where young gifted Black people can come together to express themselves.

Patterson said she wants to see more Black role models, like the women who taught her hip hop class that week. She wants to see more Black art, fewer stereotypes, less making people feel like outsiders and fewer white men writing plays.

Patterson grew up in Great Falls, a mostly-white Montana town. She said she was sometimes distrusted for her race and felt she needed to act white. She said that until she came to UM, she didn’t connect her blackness with anything good. Since she has come here though, she’s discovered more amazing Black artists and role models like Hansberry.

“I’m capable of so much more than I was given in Great Falls, and I’m just so grateful for the people in our department,” Patterson said.

When she told her theater professor she had never read a play written by a Black playwright before, she said he was shocked and then sent her 10 plays to read.

“I never felt young, Black and gifted until I came here,” Patterson said.

Both Patterson and Fisher want more people to come to events to learn about and support Black cultures and art, like the dedication of the Lorraine V. Hansberry Flexible Meeting Space and the Black Solidarity Summit.

Shearer said that the University does a good job supporting student groups of color and providing safe places like the Branch Center in the University Center and the Wtani house for the Black Student Union. However, he said he believes there are a host of issues that UM needs to address.

Shearer said UM needs to put full institutional support behind students of color, listening to them when they feel unwelcome or feel a space is racist. He said the University needs to put more funding into the curriculum that represents students of color and into student support services that make their success possible.

After the student performance, spectators moved into the flexible meeting space to eat cookies, mingle and admire a painting propped on an easel. Paired with the painting was a framed letter signed by Mamie Hansberry, Lorraine Hansberry’s sister who is now 96. Mamie sent the letter and the painting, which she painted of a Montana landscape, to UM for the dedication since she could not make the trip herself.

“Lorraine’s legacy lives in many theaters, schools, museums and now the halls of your University,” Maimie wrote in the letter. “... Many blessings to the University of Montana staff and students for recognizing Lorraine Hansberry as one of America’s greatest classic African American writers of our time.”

“This is our space, this is my space, this is Lorraine’s space,” Patterson said. “I’m going to hang here I love her, just seeing her name on that plaque makes me so happy.”

Fisher agreed. “It is a nice space and the view is nice,” he said. “I might come up here and write a play like Lorraine, you know, be inspired by Lorraine.”



ABOVE: Amirra Patterson and Elijah Fisher perform “Lift Every Voice and Sing” during the Lorraine V. Hansberry Flexible Meeting Space ceremony. This song is the Black National Anthem.

LEFT: Spectators sing along to “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN



U.S. Forest Service suspends bolting in the Bitterroots

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Climbers can no longer freely create new routes in the Bitterroot National Forest after the U.S. Forest Service issued a temporary ban on all climbing route developments.

The Forest Service's original statement completely banned all forms of bolting and suspended interference with bolts and trails that already exist. However, that statement was adjusted Feb. 28 to allow climbers to replace and maintain bolts that already exist.

Because of close proximity to Missoula, many students at the University of Montana have learned about rock climbing and bolting rocks in the Bitterroot Mountains.

"I'm just confused and don't see why [the suspension] is necessary. It's kind of a blind-side to newer climbers hoping to develop new routes," said Harrison Schutt, a UM student and climbing instructor at Campus Recreation.

Steve Brown, the Bitterroot National Forest District Ranger from Stevensville, initially called for the suspension. Many climbers are confused about how long the ban will last, but Brown said it will be lifted as soon as the Forest Service comes up with a Climbing Management Plan. Brown, who was hired November 2019, has addressed an ongoing conflict between climbers and environmental groups who disagree about how recreation in the area should be managed.

"The purpose of the suspension on fixed anchor development is to bring climbers and the activists together for public input on creating a climbing management plan that would require prior consent from the Forest Service before placing bolts on the rocks," Brown said.

Brown said he felt the decision was necessary because of bad blood that has existed between climbers and others who visit the area.

"This is meant to cease and desist both climbers and non-climbers, since Mill Creek was an issue that kept coming up in public meetings," Brown said. "We felt it was time to take a step back from the arguments over Mill Creek and ask ourselves 'what's going on' and how are we going to solve the issues surrounding that area,

and forest management as a whole?"

Climbers use bolts to permanently secure an anchor to a rock, preventing them from falling to the ground. Bolts are placed at the top of routes and on climbing route faces, called sport routes. Unlike traditionally climbed routes, sport climbs use permanent bolts that climbers clip into as they ascend walls. Each route typically has five to 12 bolts.

Much of the conflict between climbers and environmentalists has revolved around sport climbing in the Tick Farm and North Rim areas near Mill Creek outside of Hamilton. Environmentalists from groups like Friends of the Bitterroot argue that erosion from user-made trails along steep cliffs threatens cliff-dwelling wildlife. Forest Service officials said the trails potentially threaten nesting raptors like peregrine falcons and golden eagles, as well as mountain goats and bats.

"Peregrine falcons need to nest on walls, and it is important to give them their space," said Dave Lockman, wildlife biologist for the Bitterroot National Forest Service. "But their numbers have been going up significantly since the 1970s in the Bitterroot Mountains, and they are no longer on the endangered species list."

In the past, conflict with climbers and other user groups resulted in damaged climber's trails, cut-down trees to block the trail to get to the Tick Farm and chopped bolts at the base of routes.

Environmental groups, including Friends of the Bitterroot, have sent photos of leftover trash, large water containers and stashed equipment left behind by the climbers at the Tick Farm area to the Forest Service. These groups have continually shared their frustration with climbers' extensive use of the area.

"Friends of the Bitterroot believes strongly that the recent prohibition on bolting and new routes is a critically needed timeout while all stakeholders work to develop a climbing management plan that fits the needs and protects the special resources we have on the Bitterroot," said Van P. Keele, a longtime board member of Friends of the Bitterroot in an email released by The Spokesman-Review.

Many climbers are concerned that the ban will set a restrictive precedent



Two climbers overlook the Tick Farm area in Mill Creek canyon just outside of Hamilton.

JOHN PAUL EDGE | CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

for future public land management.

"This is a discussion about how we ought to use our public lands, not a user-group conflict," Damian Mast, a board member of the Western Montana Climbing Coalition, told The Spokesman-Review. "I think the folks who don't like rock climbing on public lands have continued to be a thorn in the side of our public land managers."

The Bitterroot National Forest isn't the first place where the U.S. Forest Service has restricted bolting. Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky has many climbing areas that have had permanent bolting closures in place since the mid-1990's. The bolting ban went into place after an extensive influx of bolts from climbers in the Red River Gorge.

The intent of the plan was to mitigate the amount of bolts in the area and to come up with a climbing management plan, similar to what is happening in the Bitterroot forest, according to Erik Murdock, the Policy Director of the Access Fund. The Access Fund is a land trust that advocates for climbers.

According to the Forest Service's website,

"No authorization process currently exists for new climbing development within Daniel Boone National Forest. However, the Forest Service is working with the climbing community to develop Climbing Management Plans that may include procedures for the review and authorization of new climbing development."

Ten Sleep Canyon in the Bighorn National Forest in Wyoming has also been a source of controversy when it comes to climbing route developments.

When local climber Louie Anderson began manipulating the rock to create his own climbing holds in the area, passionate climbers went out to his routes and began chopping off his bolts to make them unclimbable. Of the approximate 150 routes that Anderson had manufactured, around 70 were affected, according to Alex Green, president of the Bighorn Climbers' Coalition. Anderson's actions and the local climber's response prompted the Forest Service to release an indefinite bolting suspension in the area in 2019. The agency has been working on a climbing development plan to stop the destruction of routes



and set guidelines for making new ones.

"A management plan [for the Bitterroot National Forest] will safeguard the activity of rock climbing on National Forest land as well as allow the Forest Service to manage the amount of impact that humans have in the forest, as far as climbers," Brown said.

Since the Tick Farm and North Rim areas are in the process of being considered to be part of a Wilderness Study Area, some are afraid high foot traffic from climbers could affect a federal designation. Brown said he once saw a group of over 20 climbers in the Tick Farm area. However, the forest management plan that placed the area in suggested wilderness was introduced in 1987, over 30 years ago.

Julie King, the former Bitterroot National Forest supervisor in Hamilton, placed a moratorium on bolting in Tick Farm in 2016. Climbers agreed this was appropriate for limiting the amount of bolts in the region.

Murdock has argued that the suspension is completely unprecedented, unwarranted and unnecessary due to the relative amount of climbers there are in Bitterroot National Forest compared to other climbing areas on USFS land.

"About 30% of America's climbing is on Forest Service Land. There are only two examples of working climbing management plans in the USFS system in Rumney, New

Hampshire, and South Platte, Colorado," according to Murdock. "However, there are plenty of areas on Forest Service lands that don't have a climbing management plan, but where climbing is embedded into Forest Service policy, and that often is enough."

Brown believes that suspending bolting in the Bitterroot National Forest will result in future public meetings, which are set to be held in early April. He said he hopes the meetings will bring people together to openly discuss how to move forward. The meetings are set to take place in Hamilton, where there has been the most public turnout.

Brown hopes a lift on the bolting suspension will occur between 12 and 18 months from the ban's original announcement. But he said it will not occur until officials agree upon a proper procedure for developing future routes and climbing areas.

Lockman stated the management plan could be good for fostering more dialogue between climbers and Forest Service officials. He said climbers could help inform USFS officials about unknown bird nesting sightings in pristine canyons.

"Climbers are still welcome to climb on the walls. In fact, we hope they continue to use the forest," Brown said. "We just don't want future routes made out there until there is a management plan put in place."

LEFT: The trail out to the Tick Farm runs along steep cliffs and passes above the river down below.

FIRST BELOW: University of Montana junior Sam Walter clips a bolt while climbing in the Bitterroot Mountains. Walter works at the Recreation Center on campus as a climbing wall instructor.

LAST BELOW: National Forest Ranger Steve Brown stands outside the ranger station for the Bitterroot National Forest. Brown was hired in November and has received a lot of media coverage due to his suspension on bolting in the Bitterroot National Forest.



Facility Services adapts to buyouts paid for by 9-1-1 fund

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UM Facility Services is working with fewer staff following a buyout in December 2017 that drew criticism from a federal official.

The department, which covers everything from weed control on Mount Sentinel to cleaning classrooms, lost 26 employees as part of employee buyouts in the Fall of 2017. Facility Services' staff has shrunk by about a third to just over 100 since 2013, the Kaimin previously reported.

Kevin Krebsbach, director of Facility Services, said it hired seven replacements for positions lost in the buyouts and has not had drastic staffing changes since then.

"We've really worked hard on being more efficient," Krebsbach said. "A lot of equipment has made us more efficient with the people that we have."

The buyouts paid faculty and staff to leave UM to save money as enrollment declined. The state legislature paid for them with about \$2 million from Montana's 9-1-1 fund.

The buyouts prompted a letter from Mike O'Reilly, a commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission, to Montana Gov. Steve Bullock to criticize the move last September.

Montana's 9-1-1 fund receives fees from phone bills and pays for technology to run the 9-1-1 system. State governments sometimes divert these funds. In 2018, five states diverted nearly \$200 million in 9-1-1 fees for other purposes, according to an FCC report.

"To be clear: 9-1-1 fee diversion is unacceptable under any circumstances," O'Reilly's letter stated. "That being said, if reports about how the money was spent are true, Montana's diversion of funds would be one of the most egregious cases that I have come across in my time at the Commission."

In a letter responding to O'Reilly, Bullock said the buyout money came from an account that had grown to \$10 million because it brought in more money than it paid out. He said the rest of the money went toward 9-1-1 expenses.

Chris Lounsbury, Missoula County's chief operating officer, said he is not aware of any other diversions of Montana's 9-1-1 fund. He said it is important that 9-1-1 funds are used as intended, but the transfer didn't seem to impact the 9-1-1 system and he was not as concerned as O'Reilly.

In Facility Services, the custodial crew lost 15 employees out of 54.5 full-time equivalents at the time of the buyouts. It is responsible for cleaning about 50 buildings on campus.

Tim Elliott, assistant director of custodial services, said it took 18 months to stabilize personnel, including hiring 25 temps. The custodial crew reorganized into teams of three or four with checklists to clean each building, which he said has worked out well.

UM's grounds crew, which covers landscaping and snow removal, lost three staff members in the buyouts and currently has 74 full-time equivalents. Ben Carson, the grounds maintenance supervisor, said staff have been training in skills like tree trimming this winter to be more flexible and efficient.

"Ideally, we'd be able to put any employee in any situation and they'd be capable of accomplishing the task," Carson said.

Carson said equipment for work like snow removal and spraying pesticides has allowed the crew to cover more ground with fewer people. Facility Services is also in the process of hiring two new seasonal groundskeepers that would split their time between grounds crew and natural areas management.

Marilyn Marler, natural areas manager, works to control noxious weeds in favor of native plants on 700 acres of UM land on Mount Sentinel and at Fort Missoula. She said the split positions would save training time and be a welcome addition.

Director Krebsbach said a combination of grants and Facility Services' budget would fund the split positions, which would help with efficiency and retaining employees.

"We've thought outside the box a lot to keep our morale up," Krebsbach said. "We've got to do more with less."

MONTANA'S 9-1-1 FUND RECEIVES FEES FROM PHONE BILLS AND PAYS FOR TECHNOLOGY TO RUN THE 9-1-1 SYSTEM.

IN 2018, FIVE STATES DIVERTED NEARLY \$200 MILLION IN 9-1-1 FEES FOR OTHER PURPOSES, ACCORDING TO AN FCC REPORT.

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March starts with music

Wednesday 4

"SPRING AWAKENING"

It's opening night of the Tony-award winning musical "Spring Awakening" from the School of Theatre and Dance in co-production with the School of Music. Popular for themes of sexuality, repression, adolescence and violence, this rock'n'roll musical is selling tickets for students starting at \$12. The show runs normal night performances from March 4 to 6 and March 11 to 14, and 2 p.m. matinee performances on March 7 to 8 and March 26.

Masquer Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

"BEAUTY, WISDOM AND COURAGE"

UM Tuba and Euphonium Consort presents "Beauty, Wisdom and Courage," an evening of solo and chamber music featuring works by Stevens, Puccini, Susato, Zawinal and more. This is a non-ticketed fundraiser event for the activities of UM's Tuba and Euphonium Studio. Free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10.

UC Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

HIPPIE SABOTAGE

Logjam Presents is excited to welcome back Hippy Sabotage for a live concert performance at The Wilma. Tickets on sale at The Top Hat, online or by phone at 1 (800) 514-3849. All tickets are general admission standing room only. All ages are welcome.

The Wilma, 7 p.m.

Thursday 5

GRIZ BASKETBALL VS. NORTHERN COLORADO

Cheer on your favorite men's basketball team as they take on Northern Colorado.

Dahlberg Arena, 7 p.m.

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL"

The Missoula Community Theatre presents

the American folk musical "The Spitfire Grill." Tickets are still available and can be purchased at mctinc.org
MCT Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.

FISH BWOI PRESENTS: ELECTRIC FUNK
A night for grooving and dancing with local hip hop DJ Fish Bwoi. Spinning the top 40 every Thursday with hip hop records closing out the night every last hour. This event is free and 21+.

VFW Post 209 Ole Beck, 9 p.m.

Friday 6

"ART UNDER PRESSURE"

Opening reception of "Art Under Pressure: Function and Form in Prints from the MMAC Collection," presented by UM arts students. The exhibit runs from March 6 through May 16. It features European and American prints from the 17th to early 20th centuries.

GLI Lounge, 5:30 p.m.

FILMS FOR THE FUTURE: RECLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF NATIVE HEALTH

Missoula Indian Urban Indian Health Center invites you to join for two films that highlight contemporary, community-driven efforts to improve health in Native American communities. The night will feature h'orderves and a following Q and A discussion.

UC Theater, 5:30 p.m.

WORD TO THE WOMAN

WORD to the Woman is the signature fundraising event for Women's Opportunity & Resource Development. You are invited to join for all women fronted bands, food trucks, merchandise and beverages for purchase.

Free Cycles, 7 p.m.

Saturday 7

GRIZ BASKETBALL VS. SOUTHERN UTAH

The Griz men's basketball team plays Southern Utah.

Dahlberg Arena, 7 p.m.

"ODYSSEY OF THE STARS"

Join the College of the Arts and Media to celebrate UM visual and performing arts alumni Barbara and Judith Blegen. Barbara is a renowned pianist who played with the New York Philharmonic and Judith is a Grammy award-winning recording artist and a metropolitan opera star.

Dennison Theatre, 7 p.m.

Sunday 8

VINTAGE SWING NIGHT WITH ED NORTON BIG BAND

Vintage Swing makes a comeback with Missoula's own 17-piece big band. Dance to live music with strangers or friends, and dress up is always welcome! Tickets start at \$7 for students. This event is all ages, and no experience is necessary. Participants are encouraged to come early, as seating is limited.

Downtown Dance Collective, 7 p.m.

Monday 9

TUNNEL OF OPPRESSION

Working in collaboration with various campus departments, student groups and community organizations, the University Center is hosting the 9th Annual Tunnel of Oppression on March 9 to 11. The Tunnel of Oppression is an interactive event that highlights contemporary issues of oppression. It is designed to introduce participants to the concepts of oppression, privilege and power.

UC Ballroom, 10 a.m.

THE FLIGHT OF HUMMINGBIRDS

Join Five Valleys Audubon at their March chapter meeting to hear from Bret Tobalske, a Professor of Organismal Biology, Ecology and Evolution in the Division of Biological Sciences at the University of Montana. The topic: the Biomechanics, Aerodynamics and Thermal Balance in the Flight of Hummingbirds.

Gallagher BB 123, 7 p.m.

Tuesday 10

REBUILDING AMERICA

Sponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, bestselling author and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof presents this year's annual Mansfield lecture. This event takes a look at the deep structural problems that America faces.

Dennison Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

GRATEFUL GLASS

Western Cider hosts their weekly fundraiser event, Grateful Glass. For every glass sold, \$1 will go to a non-profit organization.

Western Cider 5:30 p.m.

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Crypticollider is a collision of sound and vision

ALEX MILLER

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Copper plumbing pipes snake down the walls of the cramped basement rehearsal space. Rows of amps, guitar pedals and mic stands hug the walls. All is quiet except for the gentle hiss of warmed up amplifiers.

The drums take up the back right corner of the room. Extra drum sticks lie on the bass drum, heavily nicked from love. One, two, three, four. Suddenly, the room explodes with the sound of Crypticollider.

They are loud. Really fucking loud. The beads of the snare drum shake violently from the guitar and bass vibration. The exposed ventilation ducts hold on for dear life. Earplugs are a must in a cramped space.

The Missoula-based three-piece consists of brothers Shane and Dylan Findlay and their childhood friend Troy-Michael Adams.

Crypticollider's sound possesses a primal, otherworldly quality. Many of their songs are cosmic instrumentals. Shane and Adams use a musical chair approach, switching between bass and guitar, and sometimes playing guitar at the same time. Though they are often labeled as psych-rock, the band describes themselves as surrealist rock.

Their songs have a frantic, breakneck pace, featuring numerous changes in time signatures and tempo. While Shane and Adams gallop up and down the necks of their instruments, Dylan's arms move like an octopus behind the kit, flinging sweat and rhythm.

"I love being in the music scene,"

Dylan said. "But fuck, it's tiring."

Dylan, the eldest Findlay and drummer for the band, first met Adams in fourth grade.

"That's when he stole our 'Ocarina of Time,'" Shane said with a laugh.

"He went to Hawaii never to return."

Eventually, Adams came back, but the game cartridge was never to be found again.

Dylan and Adams began jamming together their sophomore year at Sentinel High School. The two would sneak off to play on lunch breaks and would spend hours after school working on



Crypticollider cools off after a practice session in February. The Missoula-based band will release a second album, which will follow "21st Century Homosapien." The band is influenced by Pink Floyd and Tame Impala. "We are psychedelic-rock," guitarist Troy-Michael Adams says. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

songs. By 2017, Shane joined the duo and Dylan officially took over drum duties.

"I already played guitar," Shane said to Dylan while remembering the formation of the band. "And you wanted to play and I said 'No.'"

The Findlay brothers have always wanted to be professional musicians. Adams, however, wanted to focus on 3D design to create video games. He loved making art in photoshop, incorporating elements of graphic design.

"I always thought I had wanted to do that," Adams said. "But then I took a class in high school and absolutely hated it."

The band underwent some growing pains

in the early days. Shortly after officially forming the trio was booked for their first show at the VFW. The only problem? They didn't have enough material prepared for the half-hour set. They had one month to get ready.

The period was intense. Dylan was still new to the drums and was frustrated by his ability. Some jam sessions became heated, and Adams would have to step between the brothers.

"We had all that time where it was just up in the air as to what we were going to sound like, what sort of songs we were going to make," Dylan said.

The band's sound is certainly informed

by their wide range of influences. Pink Floyd, Tame Impala, old school blues and rock titans of '60s and '70s can all be heard in their sound. "Sapphire Blues" is one of many songs born from the rush to get stage-ready. It's like an ode to vintage Neil Young with its simple opening riff that expands into an effects-laden jam, much like Young's "Cowgirl in the Sand."

The band had managed to write enough material for what would become their debut album "21st Century Homosapien."

Josh Bacha, founder of Ghost Carrot Records, saw Crypticollider at one of their earliest shows at the old ZACC and was thrilled. After the show, he spoke to the

band and they hit it off. From there he added them to the Ghost Carrot roster, finding shows for them and getting their name out.

"I was just really happy that people in Missoula are making music that inspired me," Bacha said. "I just want their music to get out in the world."

The band began playing a string of house shows throughout Missoula. Eventually, they got slots at bars like Monks and the Badlander. By Fall 2018, roughly a year after forming, the band headlined the Top Hat. They have played there four more times since then.

Now, Crypticollider is working on a follow-up album. At a practice at Dylan and Adam's house, the band tore into "Turin Shroud," a reference to the burial shroud that is believed to bear the likeness of Jesus Christ. The song is a sprawling prog epic, with Adams playing lead guitar on his flat white 12-string.

Riley Roberts, formerly of Tiny Plastic Stars, met the band shortly after Bacha's first encounter. When Roberts first saw the trio, he recognized that even though they were young, they all naturally had something that takes a musician a long time to find. Roberts points to their chemistry and their ability to write songs that are able to grow and expand on stage as prime examples. Roberts is now helping the band record their follow-up to "21st Century Homosapien."

"I thought that whatever I would be able to do to help push their band forward, I would," Roberts said.

The band today is different. There's a brotherhood that seeps into their playing. They can communicate with a look or a gesture; they all have an unspoken connection. When the song is right, the three are all smiles.

"Me and Dylan are kinda like mind-melded," Shane said.

The trio hopes to make a new record that is more representative of their sound. The band feels like they are on a creative highpoint, firing on all cylinders in the production of this new album, which will be almost completely performed live in the same room. As for now, the working title is just "Crypticollider." They plan to launch a summer tour to coincide with the album's tentative release.

Crypticollider will be playing Thursday, March 5 at the Badlander alongside Atari Ferrari and Sasha Bell.



TOP LEFT: Crypticollider drummer Dylan Findlay listens to hear if the mics are picking up his drums during a recording session.

TOP RIGHT: Crypticollider guitarist Troy-Michael Adams practices before recording a new song in the basement bathroom of guitarist Shane Findlay and producer, engineer and friend Riley Roberts' house. To isolate the guitar from the crashing drums, the guitar amp was placed in the bathroom.

BOTTOM: Drummer Dylan's drawings accent his snare drum. Dylan drew them after having a dream that he was an anime character. "I was dreaming about being an anime character and I was being nice to people. So I woke up and I was like 'I gotta be nice to people.'" PHOTOS BY LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

GRIZZLY THREE-PEAT?

Montana's basketball
dynasty continues into
2020



SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN

GRIFFEN SMITH

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Footsteps echoed off the the Adams Center's walls as Travis DeCuire hurried down a corridor. He was late for practice, a commonality when the scheduled times and courts are switched at the last minute.

A quick change is nothing new for DeCuire. When he signed a contract to become the University of Montana head basketball coach, he had only known about the opportunity for a week.

"You don't know what is in your future, especially in the coaching field," DeCuire said. "The job is temporary."

One hundred twenty six wins later, the 6th-year head coach walked into the West Auxiliary gym and ran into a wall of reporters. His voice, coarse from yelling during games, calmly fielded reporters' questions ranging from how he felt after a big win against rival Montana State to how the team will do on an upcoming road trip.

After answering questions for 10 minutes, he finally started practice with the same yell he uses every week.

"Let's work!"

Since DeCuire's entrance in 2014, UM's basketball success has skyrocketed. The team went 84-25 in Big Sky play, won two conference titles and helped push the 2010s to be the best decade by overall record in Griz basketball history.

The men's team looks to make history in 2020. With two games left, the Griz hold a one game lead on the regular season title.

If it also wins the Big Sky Conference tournament, Montana will be the first team to three-peat since the University of Idaho in 1983 and the first time a team has ever won the regular and postseason title three years in a row.

For DeCuire, this is only the beginning of Montana's newfound dynasty.

Guard Sayeed Pridgett dribbled through Dahlberg Arena before one of his normal Tuesday practices. The lean, 6-foot-5-inch guard joked with teammates on their warm up drills and then drilled a jump shot as he does most afternoons.

Before he joined UM basketball, Pridgett watched former Griz star Will Cherry play high school ball in Oakland, California. His parents kept him from playing at McClymonds High School, yet Pridgett was fixated by Cherry.

"He was like a big brother to me,"



University of Montana men's basketball head coach Travis DeCuire talks to the media before practice on Feb. 25. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Pridgett said. "I've always been interested in Montana because of him."

Cherry, 2008 McClymonds High and Oakland area MVP, ended up becoming a huge success for Montana basketball between 2009-2013, becoming a three-time first team Big Sky player. He then went pro, dabbled in the NBA D-league and now plays

1,626 all-time points. He is currently ranked seventh on the all-time Montana list.

On Feb. 1, he surpassed Cherry's all-time scoring record of 1,484 against MSU.

The achievement marked Pridgett's best season to date. He averages 19.3 points a game, the third highest in the Big Sky. He also leads the team in rebounds, assists

hours a day working on basketball. Going into his senior year, he wanted to become even better than before. It might be a coincidence Pridgett received the team's most improved player of the year for three straight years, or maybe it's his devoted pursuit to self improvement.

"In order for me to be successful, I needed to shoot better," said Pridgett, who currently ranks fourth for field goal percentage on the team.

Now Pridgett will stop, pivot and shoot without hesitation in games, leaving teams scrambling for an answer to the bombardment from the veteran.

Pridgett's head coach grew up in the Seattle-Tacoma area. He led his local high school to two conference titles, and then traveled to Hawaii to play for Chaminade University of Honolulu.

DeCuire first came to Missoula in 1991. As a player for Montana, DeCuire shined as a shifty point guard who would dish out assists. He finished his career as the all-time and single season assist leader.

He graduated from UM with a degree in business and moved back to the Seattle area to create the Fastbreak Basketball Association, a youth organization dedicated to using after-school basketball as a tool to

"You don't know what is in your future, especially in the coaching field"
-Travis DeCuire

in Europe.

In 2015, Pridgett followed Cherry's footsteps, saying he traded the "fast-paced lifestyle of California for a slower-paced Missoula." He joined DeCuire for his second year as the Griz head coach.

Pridgett, now a senior, grew into one of the most decorated Griz players in recent history. He won first-team Big Sky Conference in 2019, played in two NCAA tournament games against Michigan and scored

and steals.

Pridgett credited coach DeCuire's emotional support for a lot of his own improvement.

"He is always there no matter what," Pridgett said. "He can be a father figure for you, he can be a big brother and he can be a coach for us. Whatever we need, he makes sure to help us and makes sure that we succeed."

In the summers, Pridgett would spend



University of Montana guard Josh Vazquez passes the ball to guard Sayeed Pridgett. Vazquez chipped in 11 points for the team during the game against Idaho State on Feb. 15, 2019. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

build teamwork and self-esteem.

DeCuire continued to work with kids, becoming a counselor at Echo Glen's and Ryther's children's centers.

Working with young people became a passion for DeCuire. He found himself back in basketball as the head coach of a small community college in Washington, where he received the league coach of the year award.

In 2003, DeCuire moved into high level coaching, working as an assistant coach at Old Dominion and UC Berkeley. In 2014, he received word that former Griz head coach Wayne Tinkle took a new gig at Oregon

State University and that UM was looking at DeCuire as a potential head coach.

It appeared to be a dream come true, but DeCuire was nervous. He had a legacy to live up to.

"If you look at it, there are four consecutive guys becoming the winningest head coach, so each guy upped the program," DeCuire said. "I felt a little pressure to be successful because of the expectation."

Montana carries the pride of producing many successful coaches. Starting in 1975, newcomer Jud Heathcote took the Griz to its first and only Sweet Sixteen in the NCAA tournament, where they narrowly

lost to UCLA.

Heathcote would go on to coach at Michigan State, where Magic Johnston he-lead the team to a national championship in 1979.

Colter Nuñez, a writer for ESPN and Skyline Sports, said that Heathcote established a long hierarchy of coaching excellence at UM, such as Mike Montgomery, who coached the Griz in the late 1970's

Montgomery, a National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame member, coached Stanford University and the Golden State Warriors before ending his career at UC Berkeley. He hired DeCuire to become an

assistant coach in 2008, and the two worked together for six seasons.

The standard was high, Nuñez said. Though DeCuire was a Montana alum, he was never a member of UM's basketball coaching staff, which is where almost all the past head coaches were chosen from.

The last coach brought in from an outside school, Pat Kennedy in 2003, lasted two years in Missoula. The pressure was set, yet DeCuire stepped up and exceeded many coaches before him.

In his five seasons as head coach, DeCuire has yet to have a losing season and has not lost more than seven Big Sky Con-

ference games in a single season. He is fifth on the all-time coaching wins list with 127 wins in six seasons, just 27 games behind Montgomery, who coached for eight years.

Under DeCuire's leadership, the team also won the most regular season titles with a single head coach, claiming three in just five years. He modestly said the team was the reason for his success.

"I have good players," DeCuire said. "I think any time you get a group of people that have a common goal, you can really have some success, and I have been fortunate to have that."

Nuñez said DeCuire's coaching ability is deeper than just talented players. It's driving them to be better.

"Travis is so no-nonsense, he's so focused and has a vision. I think he understands how good this job is, but he is relentless in expanding how good it can be," Nuñez said.

He said DeCuire plays a high-low ball screen offense, almost an echo of Jud Heathcote's 1975 Griz team, and most Montana teams that followed.

Eagles, the best statistical offense in the conference, 92-82.

While players credit DeCuire for playing a formidable defense, Nuñez said that his offense is more impressive.

"He's really good at drawing stuff up during timeouts, or when they are in the locker room," he said.

Montana also took advantage of new conference scheduling. After North Dakota exited the league in 2018, the Big Sky compressed the season into 20 games in a 10 week span.

"You see some teams not bringing it all the time because of the compact schedule," Nuñez said. "Montana has won the league because DeCuire gets his players to play hard every week."

Since the scheduling change, Montana's conference record stands at 45-10.

Josh Vazquez, a freshman on the basketball team, said that DeCuire wants players to have a heightened sense of awareness in practice and in games.

"We just go hard every day," Vazquez said. "For me, when I mess up on a drill he

"We have to take care of business, one game at a time."

- Travis DeCuire

Three players create movement on the outside of the play, while two post or forward players move closer to the basket and free throw line. When executed correctly, a team can move the ball across the court in just seconds, find inside separation and score an easy jumper.

It also allows explosive players like Pridgett to drive off of a screen and score off the dribble.

DeCuire's strategy paid off big time when Montana played conference rival Eastern Washington in Missoula Feb. 6.

Eastern, then ranked number one in the Big Sky, failed to stop a multi-pronged Montana attack which showcased four Grizzly players scoring in double digits.

The Griz also averaged 60% behind the arc, made 9 threes and outscored the

is there to really correct me and show me what to do."

As a first-year player, he struggled to compete on the faster-paced college basketball scene, and he also needed to improve his shooting speed.

DeCuire and the coaching staff started working with Vazquez before practice to better his shot. Assistant Head Coach Jay Flores constantly pushed him to improve his speed, release and accuracy.

In a Jan. 25 game against Weber State University, Vazquez found his form, shooting perfect from the arc. Since that game, he has shot at 50% at the 3-point range, far above the team average of 36%.

"Knowing that I am able to help out, and potentially try to get a three-peat, that's really big, especially for a freshman like me,"



University of Montana guard Sayeed Pridgett jumps right before scoring a point for the Griz with an alley-oop 20 minutes into the second half of the game against Texas Southern University on Nov. 25, 2019. Pridgett brought the Griz up to 60 points. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Vazquez said.

After the 2018-2019 season, Montana lost four starting seniors. Veterans like Ahmaad Rorie and Micheal Oguine, both top 10 on the all-time Griz scoring list, moved on as they finished their careers in the opening March Madness game against Michigan.

When the 2020 pre-season poll came out, Montana was projected to finish second in the Big Sky, runner up to Eastern Washington.

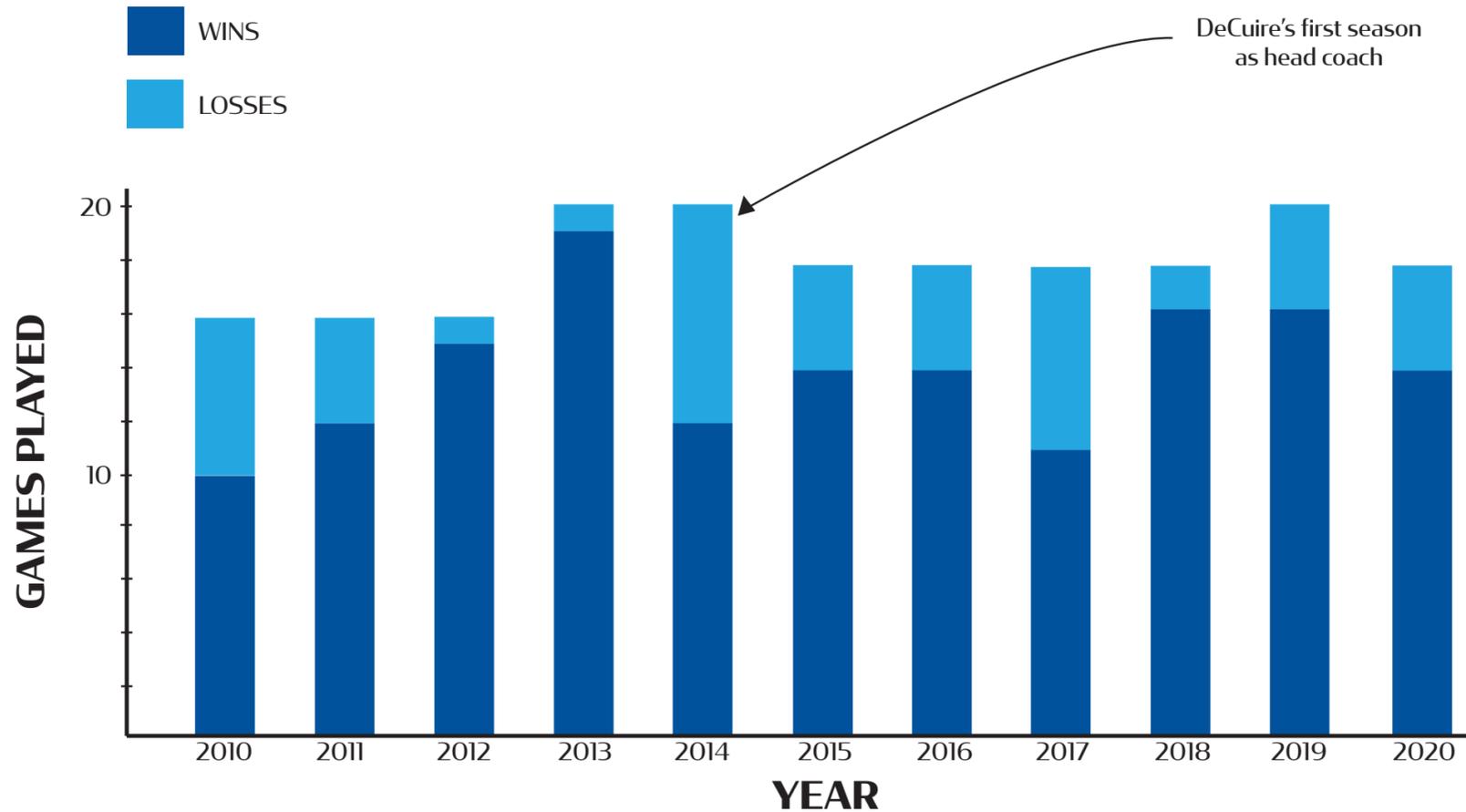
Montana's fresh talent on the Griz roster supplemented much of what was lost with the senior class.

The Griz added five freshmen: Vazquez, Kyle Owens and Derrick Carter-Hollinger Jr. are from California. They were joined by Eddy Engun, a redshirt freshman, and Naseem Gaskin, a transfer student from the University of Utah who will be eligible to play next year.

Nuñez said that when DeCuire coached at UC Berkeley, he made quick bonds with young players and high school coaches around the bay area. Though DeCuire left the school, his connection with the basketball community remained.

"I think he wanted to keep the West

GRIZ BASKETBALL SUCCESS IN BIG SKY CONFERENCE 2010-2020



University of Montana men's basketball head coach Travis DeCuire walks up between forwards Mack Anderson and Derrick Carter-Hollinger during practice on Feb. 25. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Coast," Nuanez said. "If you look at it, all of Montana's players either come from Seattle-Tacoma, California or Montana."

Vazquez played at Bishop Montgomery High School in Los Angeles. The quick point guard led the team to the 2017 State title in California's premier basketball division.

His 1,000 career points earned him titles like All-CIF open division and eventually garnered attention from multiple schools. Vazquez joined Montana over offers from UC Irvine, UC Santa Barbara and Northern Arizona in the Big Sky Conference. Missoula felt special to him.

"Coming here on my visits, I liked meet-

ing all the guys on the team," said Vazquez. "Even my first time hanging out with them, we got close right away."

DeCuire called Vazquez the purest point guard Montana has had the opportunity to recruit and coach. Together, the true freshman trio contributes 16.3 points per game. Vazquez is glad to be making an impact

"It just gives me confidence knowing I can produce and help out the team and play at this level. It gives me the spark that I need to help me out through the next couple of years."

With two games left in the regular season schedule, Montana still sits in first place of the conference at 14-4. In second

place lies Eastern Washington, also 14-4, but the Griz hold the tiebreaker because they swept both games. In a near third place, Northern Colorado is 13-5.

While Montana has an edge on Eastern, the Griz lost to the Bears back on Jan. 4 and are set to play them again on March 5. The game could be the most critical of the season.

"Thursday is a big game. We need Missoula behind us," said DeCuire in a press release. "If we can get an emotional environment, it'll be fun. We have to take care of business, one game at a time."

If Montana wins, they clinch the Big Sky Conference regular season title. If they

lose, it could cost UM the regular season three-peat.

In Boise, Montana will enter the tournament at the quarter-final stage. While they get to play one less game, Nuanez said that anyone could pull an upset.

"You still have to play three games in three days," Nuanez said. "So it is not that much of an advantage for Montana to be the No. 1 seed."

In the 2018 Big Sky tournament, the Griz entered dangerous waters in the semi-final game against then No. 5 ranked Northern Colorado.

They were down by six points with under a minute to play. ESPN analytics esti-

mated the Bears had an 80% chance to win the game at the time, and after two players scored for Montana, it still trailed by three with 30 seconds left.

Bobby Moorehead, a former Griz guard, struck magic with a long, arching 3-pointer, and Montana clawed back to win in overtime.

Pridgett said that despite nerves of back-to-back games, the team just needs to stick together and listen to DeCuire.

"We need to keep the same goal. Nobody is getting too much bigger than the other," Pridgett said. "When the time comes I know coach will have us prepared."

Entering his fourth and last tournament, Pridgett was grateful to be a part of

the Griz.

"I feel like it's a big achievement and

Pridgett said. "I want to have fun with my teammates no matter how it happens."

"I think any time you get a group of people that have a common goal, you can really have some success, and I have been fortunate to have that."

-Travis DeCuire

it's an honor to be a part of that group,"

In order to go to the NCAA tourna-

ment, the Griz must win the tournament title, which provides an automatic bid to March Madness.

DeCuire can't predict the future, but he has been able to create a powerhouse of a basketball program in Missoula. He hopes to see the team progress as it has throughout the season.

"If we can just continue to do what we've done for the last couple of weeks, then I am excited for the team," DeCuire said. "There's no guarantees in this game, but we will see what happens."

Montana plays the University of Northern Colorado on Thursday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in Dahlberg Arena.

UM violin professor makes connections in classrooms — and consulates

AUSTIN AMESTOY

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Snowflakes drifted softly through a small, rectangular window over her shoulder. Sipping from a mug covered in music notes, UM's professor of violin and viola recounted a moment that seemed better suited to Indiana Jones than a bright-eyed musician.

"We hid our instruments under our skirts. We were just trusting everything would go smoothly," Margaret Baldrige said.

That was nearly 14 years ago, at a border crossing from Bahrain into Saudi Arabia. Baldrige, the two others in her trio and a Bahraini public affairs official sat tightly packed in the Kevlar seats of the armored vehicle. Scuffing from bullets marked the sides and windows of the vehicle, signs of the region's instability at the time.

Somehow, Baldrige kept her cool. She said she was only "a little" nervous. "It was just all a big adventure," she said. "We were probably pretty naïve."

When she's not traveling the world with the Sapphire Trio, Baldrige teaches violin and viola at UM. Since she came to the University in 1992, she's adopted many roles inside the School of Music and beyond, from concertmaster of the Missoula Symphony to leader of the String Orchestra of the Rockies.

"I'm really musically fulfilled with everything that I do," she said. "I don't feel like I'm done yet, even after 28 years."

Baldrige attended the Eastman School of Music, a prestigious conservatory in Rochester, New York. There, she remembered the dean asking her a pointed question: In 25 years, where did she want to be?

"I said, 'I want to be teaching all ages of people, I want to be playing in a local symphony, and I want to be playing chamber music and solo repertoire,'" she recalled. "And here I am doing all of that."

Lea Tonnerre, a third-year physics major, has been one of Baldrige's students since her junior year of high school.

"Funny enough, she can come off as intimidating to people who don't know her," Tonnerre said. "But she's really sweet — a bit of a mother figure." Baldrige forges relationships with her students that go far beyond the classroom or concert hall. Tonnerre said she's been to several gatherings at Baldrige's house, making Christmas cookies and socializing.

With graduation fast approaching, Tonnerre said she's considering staying in Missoula for graduate school so she doesn't have to think about leaving her teacher behind.

"I don't want to," she said with a pained smile. "I really don't want to."

Baldrige said Missoula quickly became home when she arrived after receiving her doctorate. But that didn't dissuade her from the occasional adventure outside the states.

The scene at the Saudi Arabia border crossing played out in May 2006 during a U.S. State Department-funded cultural exchange tour of several Persian Gulf countries.

Why all the secrecy? In the religiously conservative Saudi Arabia, Western music was highly frowned upon — especially when played by female musicians.

"Everything we did there was illegal," said Maxine Ramey, recently retired Director of the School of Music.

Ramey has played clarinet in the Sapphire Trio for 22 years and was with Baldrige on the Persian Gulf tour.

One performance in Saudi Arabia was held exclusively for women, who were able to remove their burqas, listen and socialize during the covert "cultural exchange."

Ramey said that Baldrige was the group's key to making connections, no matter where they went.

"She's such a warm, engaging person," Ramey said. "I don't think Margaret realized the impact she had at the time."

One particular concert in Bahrain held a moment Baldrige considers a highlight of her life.

Before the trio began playing, Baldrige noticed a glaring Bahraini



Margaret Baldrige plays the viola during a performance of the "Quartet for the End of Time" at the Dennison Theatre Feb. 25. The piece of chamber music was composed by Olivier Messiaen in a Nazi prison camp. Baldrige has been with the music department at the University of Montana for 28 years. Baldrige also traveled as a part of a U.S. State Department sponsored concert series in the Persian Gulf. They played in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain. Baldrige said music was illegal in Saudi Arabia at that time.

LIAM MCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

man sitting in the audience, arms firmly crossed. Afterwards he pulled the U.S. ambassador down by his tie.

"He said, 'This is the kind of American you need to be sending over, not your soldiers,'" Baldrige said.

Admittedly, not all of Baldrige's concerts are as dangerous and thrilling. In a recent Montana Chamber Music concert, she helped bring to life "Quartet for the End of Time." The piece's composer, Frenchman Olivier Messiaen, wrote it while imprisoned in a Nazi prisoner-of-war camp.

Messiaen struck up an unlikely friendship with a German guard in the prison, who provided Messiaen with paper, pencils and erasers while he composed.

It seems, like Messiaen, Baldrige recognizes the power of music to bring people together.

"The connection that you make with a person you don't know, just through music — you can touch people's souls with that. You find that people are more the same than different," Baldrige said.



Baldrige holds her viola in her office during a private lesson on Feb. 14. Baldrige has been with the music department at the University of Montana for 28 years. She also traveled as a part of a State Department sponsored concert series in the Persian Gulf. The Sapphire Trio were considered "Cultural Ambassadors" for the United States.

UM Islanders treat concertgoers to steel pan jams

AUSTIN AMESTOY

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The glistening steel pans quieted and their players bowed and left the stage, but thunderous applause and a standing ovation from an audience 200 strong brought the Islanders Steel Band back for one more song.

Saturday evening, Dennison Theatre was transformed into a tropical getaway, and a partying vibe infected musicians and audience members alike.

"Everyone has a blast, and that's kind of what it's all about," said sophomore Willie Baltz.

The University of Montana's premier steel pan ensemble, the Islanders, closed out the 2020 Spring Percussion Concert in style, dancing and two-stepping onstage and leaving their audience wearing wide smiles.

Behind the scenes, though, a lot of hard work goes into mastering the unique instruments, according to Baltz and other members.

Baltz, who could be seen front and center during the performance, dancing to the rhythms of "Pan Earthquake," said that when he joined the group as a percussion performance major in 2018, he didn't expect to become obsessed.

"It has such a rich history and it's a rich, beautiful sound," he said. "Put those two things together, and you have a recipe for something fun."

Steel pan aficionado Tom Berich, a recent addition to the group, is acquainted with that history. His background in the instrument runs deep. At West Virginia University he learned to play and tune under "father of the modern steel pan" Ellie Mannette. He's played in Trinidad and Tobago, the nation of the steel pan's origin, a total of three times.

According to Berich, the steel pan is the only acoustic instrument invented in the 20th century, when Trinidadian gangs began shaping the pans out of oil drums and playing in competitions known as "panoramas."

Berich said he knows exactly what makes steel pan bands like the Islanders so attractive.

"They're good to listen to, better to watch, even better to experience," Berich said, ticking each point off on his fingers. "Steel pans were invented to be exciting."



TOP: The University of Montana Islanders Steel Band performs during an encore of the Spring Percussion Concert. The Islanders formed in the early '90s at UM, with help from the current director, Robert LedBetter. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

RIGHT: University of Montana senior percussion performance major Rosie Cerquone plays her steel drum during the Islanders' half of the 2020 Spring Percussion Concert at the Dennison Theatre on Feb. 22.

The Islanders formed at UM in the early '90s, courtesy of their current director, Robert LedBetter.

The longtime percussion professor, who arrived when UM had just three performance percussion majors, said he first played the pan as an undergrad at the University of Akron in Ohio in 1980.

Just over a decade later, he purchased the first three pans for the group.

"I love steel drums," LedBetter said, "I still have my first pan I bought in '87."

The steel pan ensemble quickly exploded in popularity, bringing a stellar new sound to the scene.

"This is the '90s. You gotta remember the grunge rock, the mosh pits," LedBetter said. "When we would play concerts, people would be crowded up to the stage, dancing the whole time."

He added, "We could have dove into the audience, almost."

While LedBetter said concert atmospheres have become less manic, he knows the band is still a crowd favorite.

"People still love the sound," he said. "I do." Senior percussion performance major Rosie Cerquone said she loves the sound too, but that didn't make learning the pan an easy task.

"It was so hard. I had these five-hour practice sessions just sitting with the drum, trying to figure out where the notes were on it," she said.

The steel pan is unique in its layout — Cerquone and Baltz both described an unusual spiral-shaped pattern of "dents" inside the dish.

Cerquone, who's played in the Islanders since her first semester, has obviously caught the steel pan bug. During their final song, she and a friend next to her broke out into a heel-tapping two-step. Why?

"That's the thing — there's no story behind it. As long as it's not affecting how you play, you're supposed to be having a blast when you play [pan]," Cerquone said.

It seems like a universal steel pan truth. "It's a moving sound," Baltz said. "It's hard not to move and dance around."

Even pan-laypeople agree. At the concert, Missoula resident Deb Gouert grooved in her sixth-row seat, grinning ear to ear.

"You can't help but dance," she said. "When you see the music move through their bodies, you can't help but move yours."

The Islanders will join other UIM world music ensembles in the *UM World Rhythms Concert* on April 11 at Dennison Theatre.





Friday, March 6th

Josh Farmer Band



Saturday, March 7th

Russ Nasset & The Revelators

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OPEN MIC MUSIC!
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Tea talks and Japanese masters

HAZEL CRAMER
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Nursing their tiny blue samplers filled with powerful teas from Japan, 20 audience members sat, still and attentive, listening to the Lake Missoula Tea Company monthly tea talk on Feb. 27. Their slurps could be heard just under the lecture on Japanese tea masters overseas.

Jake and Heather Kreilick, University of Montana alums and owners of Lake Missoula Tea, put on a mini-lecture once a month, focusing on a different culture and a different tea. Jake rehased his recent trip to Japan to build relationships with the different farms that help supply the store.

To the Kreilicks, this business model is a matter of responsibility. "If we're not promoting a sustainable business approach, then we aren't gonna be around very long," Jake said.

In addition to maintaining responsible relationships with their suppliers, the two store owners have moved away from using plastic and encourage customers to bring their large tea bags back in order to refill them. "Reduce and reuse come before recycle right?" Jake said.

Developing or enhancing their relationships with clientele is also important to the Kreilicks. The tea-talks help to inform their customers on where their tea comes from, where it's grown and the different properties the tea possesses. Matcha tea was this month's focus.

"It's actually a powder, so you have to whisk the matcha to make it," Jake said. He also went on to describe the benefits of matcha and caffeine content.

According to a close friend and audience member on Thursday, Marc Hendrix, the Kreilicks have traveled abroad to more than five different countries to develop their knowledge on tea.

"Their main suppliers are family-owned, women-owned and they



TOP: Jake Kreilick shows his audience pictures from his recent trip to Japan. "Developing or enhancing those relationships with those families that grow the tea is important," Kreilick says.

BOTTOM: Tea bartender Zac Johnson pulls a whisk out of a bowl of Matcha, a powerful green tea made from a powder. Jake Kreilick told attendees that matcha needed to be whisked. Kreilick, a co-owner of Lake Missoula Tea Company, hosted the event, Tea Tasting: Japanese Tea, In Pursuit of Excellence, on Feb. 27.

typically go for smaller operations," said Hendrix, "Mom and pop tea suppliers." Hendrix used to drink coffee, but has made the switch to teas due to the complexity and variety of tea. "There's more to discover," he said.



Johnson pours a tea sample for a guest during the talk. He created and distributed samples of the teas discussed in the lecture.

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KRELF is supported by the student sustainability fee

'Impractical Jokers: The Movie' is too 'impractical' and not enough 'joke'

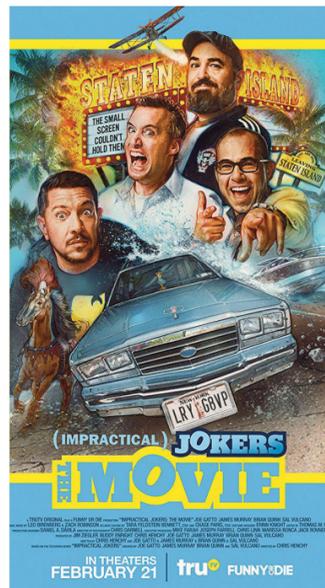
CLINT CONNORS
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With a "Cats" here and a "Sonic the Hedgehog" there, Hollywood has been putting its tendency to make films based on anything and everything, regardless of whether or not the source material naturally lends itself to cinema, into full force these past couple of months.

But the concept to bring "Impractical Jokers" to the big screen is particularly baffling.

Each episode of the reality show, which follows four lifelong friends as they put each other into embarrassing situations, has the structure, tone and quality of a Vine compilation. And sure, Vine compilations are funny, but would you really pay to sit through 93 minutes of them? On second thought, don't answer that.

Either way, maybe "Impractical Jokers: The Movie" would have been a possible, albeit expensive, diversion if it was simply an extra-long episode of the show.



But director Chris Henchy (co-writer of "The Other Guys") and his team make one fatal mistake: they try to add a plot.

That plot involves the jokers, Brian "Q" Quinn, Sal Vulcano, Joe Gatto and James "Murr" Murray, trying to make up for a high school prank that went awry at a Paula Abdul concert.

Abdul gives them the chance by inviting them to her party, but she only gives them three tickets. This launches the men into the competitive fool-making we're used to on the show.

And that leads us to our first problem. The loser of the game isn't forced to participate in the most embarrassing encounter of the day, like on the show. He just doesn't get to go to a lame-ass party.

Thus, the filmmakers manage to make the stakes lower. I didn't think that was possible.

On top of that, the inclusion of this sort-of story forces us to sit through overly long,

scripted scenes of the jokers traveling on the road between pranks. The quartet shows off their acting chops, of which they have none.

And when we do finally get to the pranks, they feel like major downgrades from the real-life situations on the show.

The set-ups are promising: the guys have to do everything from convince boat passengers not to let stranded individuals on board to act fanatical at a Jaden Smith Q and A. Unfortunately, more outsiders, like business personnel and Smith himself, are in on the joke than usual, meaning we get fewer of the raw reactions that make the show funny.

I don't think I'm asking too much. I knew I wasn't going to get intelligent writing, masterful directing, artistic cinematography or a sweeping score from "Impractical Jokers: The Movie."

But I still thought I'd laugh, or at least chuckle. Alas, I guess I was the real loser of this week's episode.

Soccer Mommy's 'Color Theory' is a gut punch

MEGHAN JONAS
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Soccer Mommy's "color theory" is the kind of album that will absolutely wreck you if you let it. It can make eyes well up or force a mighty sob. When it's done, listeners might feel freer than they have in months or they might want to lay under their covers for a period of extended hibernation.

It's a lot for a 22-year-old artist to accomplish. It's something that musicians with decades of experience can't always do. But Soccer Mommy's age and raw truth can't be taught.

"Clean," Soccer Mommy's debut studio album released in 2018, was hard-hitting. It kicked you in the face with its coolness. There were plenty of emotional roundhouses but the main feeling it left listeners with was a sense of powerful aloofness. Like, "you can look at me, but that doesn't mean you deserve a smile."

"Color theory" is a punch to the gut.

Sure, some songs definitely feel like something a teenage girl who lives in Maine would listen to. She would walk down the streets with her headphones (with wires) plugged into a Walkman. Maybe she'd be thinking about her high school girlfriend (or boyfriend) or SATs or which prestigious Ivy league school she was going to go to. Think Rory Gilmore, but cooler.

But most of the songs aren't about that surface-level angst. With mentions of self-harm and a dying mother, Soccer Mommy has grown up and her sadness has grown with her.

There isn't a single moment of doubt in Soccer Mommy's intentions or her feelings. Nothing is faked and none of her painfully honest lyrics feel like she's saying, "Look at me. Look how sad I am. Aren't I cute?"

"Color theory" seems like a once-in-a-

lifetime album. It almost feels like a fluke. But Soccer Mommy didn't use luck to create something so good. She used a raw emotional depth that only a 20-something girl with too much sadness to carry has.

Soccer Mommy isn't just sad though. She's also a badass. Her first single from "color theory" is the 7-minute "yellow is the color of her eyes." It takes confidence to release a song that long as a single, especially in the era of streaming, where you can skip a song if you get bored.

But if you skipped it, you wouldn't get the depth of her lyrics. You wouldn't feel the pain of a girl who can feel cancer stealing her mother.

"Color theory" hurts. But it's worth it. It lets listeners take a break from forcing a smile. After all, if Soccer Mommy doesn't expect you to be fake-happy, why should you expect it from yourself?

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MUST KNOW DATES:

Election Forms Available **March 2nd**
1st Info Session **March 10th @ 6 pm**
2nd Info Session **March 12th @ 3:30 pm**
3rd Info Session **March 24th @ 11 am**



Horoscope

Your're trash, UM campus trash

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20): PLASTIC BAG

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag, drifting through the wind, wanting to start again? If you only knew what the future holds; after a hurricane comes a rainbow. Maybe the rea-

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19): CONDOM WRAPPER

Definitely better than a used condom. It does make you wonder, though, how does a condom wrapper get outside in the middle of winter? And that's that on college life.

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20): GUM WRAPPER LYING RIGHT BY A TRASH CAN

Of course. You couldn't be bothered for the two seconds it takes to bend over and pick up your gum wrapper after you fail miserably at throwing it away. Mother Nature is not pleased, and neither are we.



LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22): HOMEWORK

This one means one of three stories. One, someone lost their homework on the way to class. Sad for them, but arguably a little funny. Two, someone lost their homework long after being graded and completed. Three, someone intentionally discarded their homework because they hated it. Talk about a Libra vibe.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23- NOV. 21): JUUL POD

Just when we thought it couldn't get any worse than cigarette butts and condom wrappers.

We don't have a lot more to say about this other than our normal stance on littering which is "really?" But nothing screams "yup, here we are — the future" like a littered JUUL pod. Truly the peak of human existence.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21): MONTANA KAIMIN

This one kinda stings Sagittarius. On one hand, thanks for picking us up, but on the other hand, we feel like Mufasa being thrown from the cliff into the stampeding wildebeests. At least that means the background music for your betrayal slaps. But really, you know you can recycle this paper, right? We promise we won't get mad.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19): PEPSI CAN

We realize we might be bullying you by calling you a Pepsi can. But underneath we do kinda respect you. Like, you have to go out of your way to get Pepsi on this campus. That's kinda rebellious, Capricorn. Look at you, thinkin' you're Katniss Everdeen. Overthrowing Panem, one Pepsi at a time.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18): PLASTIC STRAWS

What to say about the ultimate, big daddy of non-recyclable waste? Gemini may be VSCO girls (are we wrong?), but at least they have those reusable straws. We have a few choice turtle videos to show you that would make you never want to touch a plastic straw again, but we'll let you off with a warning... this time.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20): COFFEE CUP

The only litter a VSCO girl could make. It's all "save the turtles" and "reusable silverware" until it comes to vanilla iced lattes. All we're saying is, if you're going to bother going waste-free, be consistent.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22): A FLIP FLOP

Why? How? These are the questions that pop into the mind of the everyday Cancer, just like these are the questions that pop into our heads when we see a fucking flip flop on the Oval. It is WINTER. There is SNOW on the ground. It is 30 degrees Fahrenheit. It's like y'all are TRYING to litter.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22): CIGARETTE BUTT

A classic. If anyone smokes, it's gotta be Leo. It was for the aesthetic, wasn't it? We hope that nicotine addiction is worth it. And hey, while we're at it, did you know that cigarette butts are the number one type of litter collected every year? Seems like a Leo sort of thing tbh.

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22): APPLE CORE

This one is just kind of insulting. How are you so concerned about eating healthy, but not concerned about throwing your trash away? Newsflash, kiddo, just because it's green doesn't mean it's okay to just leave on the ground. SMH.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	
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63										64		65			
66										67					68
69										70					71

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Gave the slip
 - 5 Pants style
 - 10 Battery contents
 - 14 Gawk at
 - 15 Woody or Gracie
 - 16 Bygone bird
 - 17 Change of heart?
 - 19 Burr-Hamilton event
 - 20 Floral leaf
 - 21 Like a stop sign
 - 23 Hindu social class
 - 25 One of ten in FDR's coin
 - 26 Ghostly figure
 - 29 Take the bait
 - 31 Compass dir.
 - 34 Angelic feature
 - 35 Fairy tale's second word
 - 37 Travolta walk
 - 39 Switch on
 - 41 Fastest feline
 - 43 Part of LCD, in math
 - 44 Liniment target
 - 46 "Get a ___ on!"
 - 47 Miss the mark
 - 48 Plaster base
 - 50 Snoop Dogg, e.g.
 - 52 Still-life fruit
 - 54 Companionless
 - 56 Winter pelt
 - 59 Desktop icon
 - 63 Like some coffees or teas
 - 64 Impossible to fill
 - 66 Fancy trim
 - 67 Squirrel away
 - 68 Salty drop
 - 69 Seating section
- DOWN**
- 1 Quite a few
 - 2 Folklore monster
 - 3 Insult response
 - 4 Persistent
 - 5 Spending limit
 - 6 Divvy up
 - 7 Sugar pill, say
 - 8 Monopoly payment
 - 9 Still in one piece
 - 10 Extra charge
 - 11 Kitchen surface
 - 12 Creative spark
 - 13 Chatty Cathy, e.g.
 - 18 Trellis piece
 - 22 Migratory birds
 - 24 Put a lid on
 - 26 Humpback, e.g.
 - 27 Marathon entrant
 - 28 Paneled art in a church
 - 30 Progress slowly
 - 32 Slick
 - 33 It'll knock you out
 - 36 Kind of moss
 - 38 Geographical zone
 - 40 Mythical strongman
 - 42 Male protagonist
 - 45 French song
 - 49 Matisse, for one
 - 51 Start to freeze?
 - 53 Respected one
 - 55 Live's partner
 - 56 To the ___ (fully)
 - 57 Exotic berry
 - 58 Not taken in by
 - 60 Out for the night
 - 61 Coal refuse
 - 62 "Take one!"
 - 65 Golf ball support

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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



LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Don't downplay POC excellence, even in the name of feminism

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In the aftermath of the Oscars, Twitter was flooded with posts about all the winners and their accomplishments. My newsfeed in particular was overwhelmed by posts about Maori director Taika Waititi. But more importantly, my newsfeed posts were filled with praise and gratitude that two people of color walked away with two major awards and what an amazing feat it was for their talents to be acknowledged in such a high-profile way.

The thing I appreciated most about the night was not only the land acknowledgment at the beginning of the program, but Taika's victory speech. In it, he spoke to "all the Indigenous kids" around the world and assured us that we can "make it" in spaces like this too.

This was so important to me because for so long the representation I had of Indigenous people in media was Iron Eyes Cody (the Crying Indian) and Disney's version of Pocahontas. Never before was I told that Indigenous people could act, that we could write screenplays or even be Oscar-winning directors. For Taika Waititi to win such a highly regarded award in front of millions of viewers and speak directly to those of us in the farthest corners of society brought tears to my eyes.

That being said, you could imagine my frustration when I found a tweet in my newsfeed from IndieWire with the headline "The Academy Overlooks Greta Gerwig (again!) as Taika Waititi Wins Best Adapted Screenplay." Of course, I understand the frustration. Greta Gerwig is a talented director and her work definitely needs to be acknowledged. However, IndieWire, you went about it all wrong. Do not pit Greta Gerwig against Taika Waititi because in turn, you are creating a hostile dynamic where there doesn't need to be one.

As a person of color, representation in media is really important to me, especially because as an Indigenous person, we're rarely seen in high-profile spaces like the Oscars. Of course, I understand that representation is also an issue for women in Hollywood, but we need to address these issues WITHOUT tearing down the achievements of other marginalized groups.

For the IndieWire to call out the lack of women represented in top categories like best director and picture is to completely disregard the importance of those wins by people of color. I'm all for the advancement of women in industries primarily dominated by men, however, Hollywood is also not nearly as racially diverse as it should be and every person of color who wins big also needs to be celebrated.

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Rock Lotto randomly assembles bands to recreate the history of music

CLINT CONNORS
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“We’re probably going to fuck it up.” Bjorn Bergeson was talking about “Below,” the song that he and the Nude Pornographers were about to play at the sixth Missoula Rock Lotto on Saturday.

The 600 people in the Zootown Arts Community Center’s new Show Room screamed in approval anyway.

Bergeson said he has been in 35 bands and playing guitar since he was 13, but had never fulfilled his wish to perform in Rock Lotto until now.

And he wasn’t expecting his band to be playing music from the 2010s.

“That’s the blessing and the curse of Rock Lotto,” he said. “You never know what you’re going to get.”

The event’s unpredictability was aided by the fact that the Nude Pornographers and the other seven bands that performed Saturday were randomly assembled from a pool of musicians back in January.

Each band was given a set of songs to rehearse beforehand, as well as a specific era for the set.

The night’s theme was “Rock is Dead, Long Live Rock & Roll,” which took the audience through each selected era, from the 1950s to the 2010s.

It’s what allowed songs like “I Melt with You,” “Gloria,” “Stayin’ Alive” and “Surfin’ Bird” to be performed under the same roof.

This year’s Rock Lotto was a benefit for KFGM Community Radio.

“You just get thrust into a random situation with a couple of random people who love music,” said Charlie Satchfield, one of the night’s vocalists.

He and his band, who took on the ‘60s, came up with the longest name of the eight groups: Nathaniel Bumbleberry’s Majical Traveling Band Show and the 2nd Cousin Temptations.

“I guess we were the assholes this year,” he said. “Every year, there’s someone who does it.”

Each musician had a different background in music, as well



Charles Satchfield of Nathaniel Bumbleberry’s Majical Traveling Band Show and the 2nd Cousin Temptations performs at the sixth Rock Lotto Saturday evening at the Zootown Arts Community Center. The Lotto featured eight bands that assemble eight weeks prior to the concert to prepare and practice era-specific songs. PHOTOS DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

as experience in Rock Lotto.

Brianna Ewart said she was fairly new to performing music in general and wanted to challenge herself this year as the guitarist for the 2000s-focused Y2K.

She had made the transition to musician after performing in ballet until she was 18.

“I wanted to learn to play the music I’ve listened to,” she said.

Ewart said she was most excited about the band’s cover of Kelly Clarkson’s “Since U Been Gone.”

“It whips,” she said. “I’m telling you.”

Chad Loney, on the other hand, said he was playing bass for the Blacklights that night as a Rock Lotto veteran.

“Every year, it’s a different challenge,” he said. “But every year, you get to meet new people.”

This year’s challenge: mas-

tering ‘70s disco music.

Jason McMackin started Rock Lotto in 2013 as an event for the community during the winter months, since, he said, not many touring bands visit Missoula.

He said he initially ended the event after his fifth year in 2017 to attend to his family and work.

Plus, he said, “I just got tired of people’s bullshit.”

Jon Van Dyke, KFGM’s general manager, said he knew why McMackin wanted to end it.

“It’s a lot of work,” he said, “and Jason is a one-man committee and a force of nature.”

Van Dyke said he approached McMackin about Rock Lotto after members of KFGM’s board of directors were “clamoring for its revival.”

And McMackin decided that it had been enough of a break.

Van Dyke said that part of Rock Lotto’s appeal comes from the audience’s connection with the musicians, whom many know personally.

“People are interested to see what their friends are doing on stage,” he said.

Mandy McGimpsey, for example, said she was supporting her friend Bobby Coates as he played ‘90s songs with the band Topanga.

“It’s just very creative and fun... seeing people who could be strangers before coming together,” she said.

McMackin said that he enjoys never knowing what each band is going to sound like.

“The best thing about Rock Lotto,” he said, “is being surprised.”



ABOVE: The drummer of the ‘80s themed band Blowing Bubbles adjusts a monkey head prop as bubbles fly out of its mouth. Blowing Bubbles had a monkey-styled stage, themed with wooden banana props set at the front of the audience.

TOP LEFT: The Black Lights guitarist Brad Craig performs riffs at the Rock Lotto. Craig and his fellow band members took to swing music and performed old-school songs like Bob Seger’s “Old Time Rock and Roll.”

MIDDLE LEFT: From right to left, Blowing Bubbles band members Rachel Shull, Jack Metcalf, Marco Lottie, and PJ Willett strike poses before their set. Blowing Bubbles took on an ‘80s themed rock and roll jam.

BOTTOM LEFT: Brianna Ewart of the 2000s-themed band Y2K shows support for her musical group on her painted nails. Ewart said she wore high heels and colorful clothes to go for a Paris Hilton-type outfit.

Pitching perfect: UM softball excels behind strong pitchers

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UM softball players smiled and joked around as they ran through drills during a practice in Missoula on Feb. 29. In the first three weeks of the softball season, two UM pitchers were named Big Sky Conference Player of the Week. These two pitchers are part of a trio of pitchers that has made history for UM softball in 2020.

"We have three [pitchers] on staff, and all three are very different," said UM head softball coach Melanie Meuchel. "It's a true attribute to what our team is capable of doing."

Senior Michaela Hood led UM to its first ever win against a ranked opponent on Feb. 22, when the team upset #23 ranked Arkansas 5-0. She struck out six batters and picked up her second win of the season in the historic shutout.

"It felt great to watch our players accomplish something that hasn't been accomplished before against a very stout team," said Meuchel.

Hood received Big Sky Conference Player of the Week honors after the victory. UM President Seth Bodnar was quick to congratulate Hood for the honor, tweeting out "Congrats, Michaela! The Griz softball team is off to a great start this season!"

"I'm so thankful that even the highest here at the school pay attention to the softball team," Hood said about Bodnar's tweet.

So far in 2020, Hood has pitched in nine games for UM. Three of those games resulted in wins for UM. Two of those three wins were attributed to her, including the upset win over Arkansas. She has struck out 45 batters this season while only allowing three home runs.

Prior to Hood's stellar performance against Arkansas, junior pitcher Tristin Achenbach almost delivered UM its first ranked win on Feb. 9. Achenbach only allowed two runs and struck out nine batters in an extra-innings loss to 18th ranked Texas Tech at the Louisiana Tech Big Easy Classic in Metairie, Louisiana.

She went 3-1 in the games she played



University of Montana pitchers Tristin Achenbach, Ashley Ward and Michaela Hood huddle together after a warmup during practice on Feb. 25. All three pitchers played in the first four games of the season. PHOTOS LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

at the invitational, netting a Big Sky Conference Player of the Week award. Achenbach struck out 25 batters in this stretch of games and didn't allow a home run.

"It was a lot of everything my teammates were doing behind me, I can't take credit for all of that," Achenbach said about the award.

The third pitcher on the roster with Hood and Achenbach is freshman Ashley Ward, who is the only pitcher who also hits for UM. Ward is a true freshman who has primarily subbed in to relieve the upperclassmen pitchers.

"I have big shoes to fill and it's defi-

nately a lot of pressure," Ward said. "It's great for me to get better."

Before attending UM, Ward attended Coronado High in Henderson, Nevada. She was named the Gatorade Nevada Softball Player of the Year as a senior at Coronado High School.

Ward was also named first-team all-state in Nevada and the Desert League Pitcher of the year in high school. Meuchel recruited her to UM by and Ward committed after visiting Missoula.

On Feb. 29, UM beat Michigan State 6-0, where Ward hit her first-ever home

run for the Griz. The home run helped three runners score, including Ward.

Hood is also from Nevada, where she attended Spring Valley High School in Las Vegas. Hood and Ward played on the same travel softball team while in high school.

Hood decided to attend UM after high school in order to find a cooler environment.

"I passed out three times. I had to be taken out of a game to get my blood drawn once," she said about playing softball in Las Vegas.

During Hood's freshman season in 2017, she appeared in 37 games



University of Montana pitcher Tristin Achenbach throws the ball during practice on Feb. 25. Achenbach committed to UM in 2017 after completing her high school career with 16 state records.

and pitched five shutouts. She ranked second in the Big Sky Conference in wins and estimated runs added.

She was also named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week two times in 2017. During conference tournaments in 2017, Hood was named First Team All-Big Sky Conference and also the Big Sky Conference Tournament MVP.

During her sophomore year in 2018, Hood was named Big Sky Conference Player of the Week. She was injured in 2018, so she appeared in 13 less games than she did her freshman year. She

threw eight complete games and two shutouts in 2018, despite the injury.

In 2019, Hood appeared in 24 games, splitting time with Tristin Achenbach. She threw four complete games and won two games in 2019, one of which was against Providence, where she led UM to a 12-2 victory.

Hood has a 3-4 record so far in 2020, including wins over Arkansas and Nebraska Omaha. She has struck out 53 batters and has an ERA of 2.00.

Unlike her pitching counterparts, Achenbach got her start in Montana. She pitched for Choteau High School up until her senior



University of Montana senior pitcher Michaela Hood watches her teammates during practice on Feb. 25. Hood was named the Big Sky Conference Player of the Week after leading the Griz to their first ever win to a ranked team on Feb. 22. UM President Seth Bodnar tweeted out congratulations to the team.

year. Choteau, which is a B school, combined with its rival Conrad High School for softball.

"It was kind of weird because I played against all of those girls [from Conrad] in volleyball and basketball and then we'd have to be on the same team for softball," Achenbach said.

She helped lead Choteau-Conrad to back-to-back B-C state titles. In her senior year, the standout pitcher transferred to C.M. High school in Great Falls, which is an AA school.

Achenbach was awarded the Gatorade Softball Player of the Year in Montana for her senior and junior seasons in high school. Great Falls CMR only lost one game while Achenbach was there.

Achenbach finished her high school career with 16 state records, including throwing 19 no-hitters. She committed to UM to continue her softball career in 2017.

In her first season at UM in 2018, she made 18 appearances and started six times. She finished the 2018 season with a 4-4 record and allowed a team-low .235 batting average.

In 2019, Achenbach was named a Big Sky Conference Player of the Week for the first time after she picked up two wins when UM swept Southern Utah.

She won four games as a starter in 2019 and compiled a 7-7 record as a pitcher. She set a UM record with 16 strikeouts

against Carroll College in that season.

So far in 2020, Achenbach has a 6-5 record as a pitcher for UM. She appeared in 13 total games and struck out 66 batters. She struck out nine batters in UM's near-win against 18th ranked Texas Tech.

Her ERA in 2020 has dropped to 3.00 after posting a 3.96 ERA in 2019. In UM's 12-3 drubbing of Alabama A&M, she only allowed two hits while pitching.

So far in 2020, the UM softball team has traveled to Louisiana, Nevada, Arkansas and California without playing one home game.

After having to travel a lot, Hood and Ward were thrilled to be able to return to their home of Nevada to play again.

"It was my first time being home for my birthday in four years," said Hood. "It was just nice to be able to have my family and friends be able to come watch me play."

The Griz still have to travel to Arizona, Utah and Idaho before their first home game on April 1 against Providence.

UM entered its last tournament in California on Feb. 28 with a losing 6-9 record. The Griz beat UC Riverside Nebraska Omaha and Michigan State to sweep the tournament and gained a 9-10 record in the 19 games played so far.

The Griz will travel to Phoenix, Arizona for their next match against St. Joseph's in the Grand Canyon Lopes Up Classic on Mar. 9.

UM track star overcomes injuries and breaks school records

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For some college track athletes, winning one race in a season is a dream come true. UM track athlete Paul Johnstone won 12 college races in a row this season, and it is just the beginning of his career.

"I've had success, and I've found it early. I'm just going to stay humble and continue to work hard," Johnstone said.

Johnstone was also part of a 4x400 relay team last year that broke the UM 4x400 relay record and won a conference championship in the spring of 2019.

Also on that record-holding team was Johnstone's twin brother, Cade Johnstone. Cade is currently redshirting for the indoor track season.

"For last year as a freshman, it was like comforting to have him there, just because we grew up practicing together," said Paul about his brother.

The brothers attended Forsyth High School, where they played football and basketball and ran track. When Paul hurt his hip in eighth grade, Cade ran the rest of his brother's events and no one noticed.

When the twins played basketball together, opposing teams would often get them mixed up and two defenders would cover one of the brothers, leaving the other wide open.

"I thought my iPhone 11 was pretty cool until I saw my twin brother Cade using his face to unlock it," Paul tweeted in January.

Paul wasn't able to realize his track talent until his sophomore year because of the injuries he suffered earlier in his career. But with the help of his brother, he won the state 4x400 meter relay championship narrowly over Forsyth's rival Huntley Project.

After considering both UM and Montana State, Paul committed to run track at UM, where he enrolled in the business school.

During his first indoor track season, he took 10th place in a 400-meter race at the Big Sky Championships. He also placed 12th in the 200-meter race in the Championship. He took 14th at the 200-meter race, 13th in the long jump and won the 4x400 meter relay during his first outdoor track season at UM.

He was also named Academic All-Big Sky.

Paul has only continued his success this year. In UM's first meet at Montana State, he won the men's 200-meter race.

UM traveled to the Stacy Dragila Open meet in Idaho on Jan. 17, where Paul won the 200-meter and 400-meter races and was part of the winning 4x400 relay team.

"I didn't really know where I'd be at for times and stuff, so I kind of just shocked myself," he said.

On Jan. 25, UM returned to Montana State for another track meet, where Paul once again won the 400-meter race and participated in the winning 4x400 meter relay.

On Feb. 8, Paul won the 400-meter race, 200-meter race and got third in the triple jump at the Idaho Team Challenge. The 4x400 meter relay team he is a part of also won at that meet.

When UM traveled to Seattle for the Husky Classic track meet, Paul's odds of continuing his streak of winning races dropped. He had to compete against runners from Oregon, Washington State, Washington and other high profile schools.

Paul's relay team once again won the 4x400 meter relay and Paul won the 200-meter race and 400-meter race, improving his winning streak to 12 in a row.

At the Big Sky Indoor Championships in Pocatello, Idaho, on Feb. 27, Paul's streak was once again tested. Paul was unable to continue his streak in the 200 meters, finishing seventh overall. In the 400 meters, Paul fell two-hundredths of a second short of first place, finishing in second.

His 4x400 meter relay team was able to repeat as Big Sky Champions, taking first place at the meet.

The outdoor track season will begin on March 27 at the Al Manuel Northwest Invite in Missoula, where Paul will once again be able to compete alongside his brother in the 4x400.

"I need more Pauls and I need more Cades in my group," said UM assistant track coach Paul Reneau. "Their potential is still untapped."



UM track and field athlete Paul Johnstone stands in the Adams Center. Johnstone competes in the 200 meter, 400 meter and 4X400 meter relays. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

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Lady Griz seniors honored during final home game of the season

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The Lady Griz dominated Sacramento State in their final home game of the season with a score of 90-45. Montana improved its conference record to 11-7 and is now ranked fourth in the Big Sky Conference.

Senior Emma Stockholm led the game, scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Montana outrebounded Sacramento State 57-29.

"I give all the credit to my teammates," Stockholm said. "They are the ones who are finding me on the open looks and pushing the ball to get me open."

Before the game started, a heartfelt Thank You video was played for the 3,000 griz fans who attended at Dahlberg Arena Saturday afternoon. Seniors Stockholm, Taylor Goligoski and Mackenzie Johnston thanked the fans for all the support throughout their four years playing at the University of Montana.

"It gets emotional when you have spent four years of your life here and you really grow a connection with the fans and the community here. It's sad to leave," Goligoski said.

Montana secured an early lead against the Hornets by scoring 17-4 with less than two minutes left in the first quarter. Junior Madi Schoening shot seven points during this run and continued to score throughout the game, finishing with 17 points.

A few of Sacramento State's key players were missing at the game, and the team didn't have the best luck when senior guard Camariah King suffered a left hand injury during the second quarter.

This didn't stop the Hornets from making a run in the second quarter to cut Montana's lead down to nine points before the half.

Montana didn't look back in the second half. The team increased the lead to 30 points by the end of the third quarter with a boost from Johnston, who scored eight points early in the third quarter.

"That was a great team win. We capitalized on the spots they were down on



University of Montana senior guard Taylor Goligoski reaches for the ball late in the game against Sacramento State University, which Montana won 90-45, at Dahlberg Arena, Feb. 29. Goligoski was among three seniors who helped Montana beat Sacramento during the game, which recognized Montana senior players. PHOTOS DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

and looking forward to that is what we need to do," Johnston said.

By the last buzzer of the game, the Griz doubled the amount of points Sacramento State had with a final score of 90-45. The Hornets were unable to make a three pointer the entire game, shooting 0-17 from behind the arc.

Each senior was individually subbed out of the game by coach Schweyen to be recognized by the Dahlberg crowd.

"It's been a group of seniors who have been through some really tough times from all the injuries we have had, but they have believed in the Lady Griz and believed in what we are doing," Schweyen said.

The Lady Griz now have a two game road trip to finish up the regular season. The next game will be on Thursday against Northern Colorado at 7 p.m.



University of Montana senior forward Emma Stockholm waits with her family to be recognized on the court before the game. The game against Sacramento State University marked senior day for the basketball team. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Pigeons Playing Ping Pong funks up the Top Hat

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Energetic, psychedelic funk band Pigeons Playing Ping Pong performed at the Top Hat on Feb. 25 on the 14th stop of their Presto Winter Tour, nearly a year after their last visit to Missoula.

After its inception in 2009, the 11-year-old band toured around the country consistently and released their newest album, "Presto," this year.

Vocalist and guitarist Greg Ormont led the Baltimore, Maryland band, joined by founding members Jeremy Schon, guitarist and vocalist; and Ben Carrey on bass and vocals. Alex Petropulos, the newest member as of 2015, accompanied on the drums.

The funk jam band played some of its most famous songs, including "Horizon," "Melting Lights" and "F.U." from its 2014 album "Psychology." Pigeons Playing Ping Pong released three albums since "Psychology," including their self-released fifth album "Presto" on Jan. 24, 2020.

Pigeons Playing Ping Pong's winter tour continues through April, with their next show in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 5.

TOP: Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, perform at the Top Hat on Feb. 25. "We pour every ounce of ourselves into every note when we perform live," Greg Ormont said on their website.

BOTTOM LEFT: Lights shine on guitarist and vocalist Jeremy Schon as the crowd watches his guitar solo.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Bright white lights shine around lead vocalist Greg Ormont as he sings. The band performed "Melting Lights" off their album "Psychology," one of their most popular songs on Spotify.

