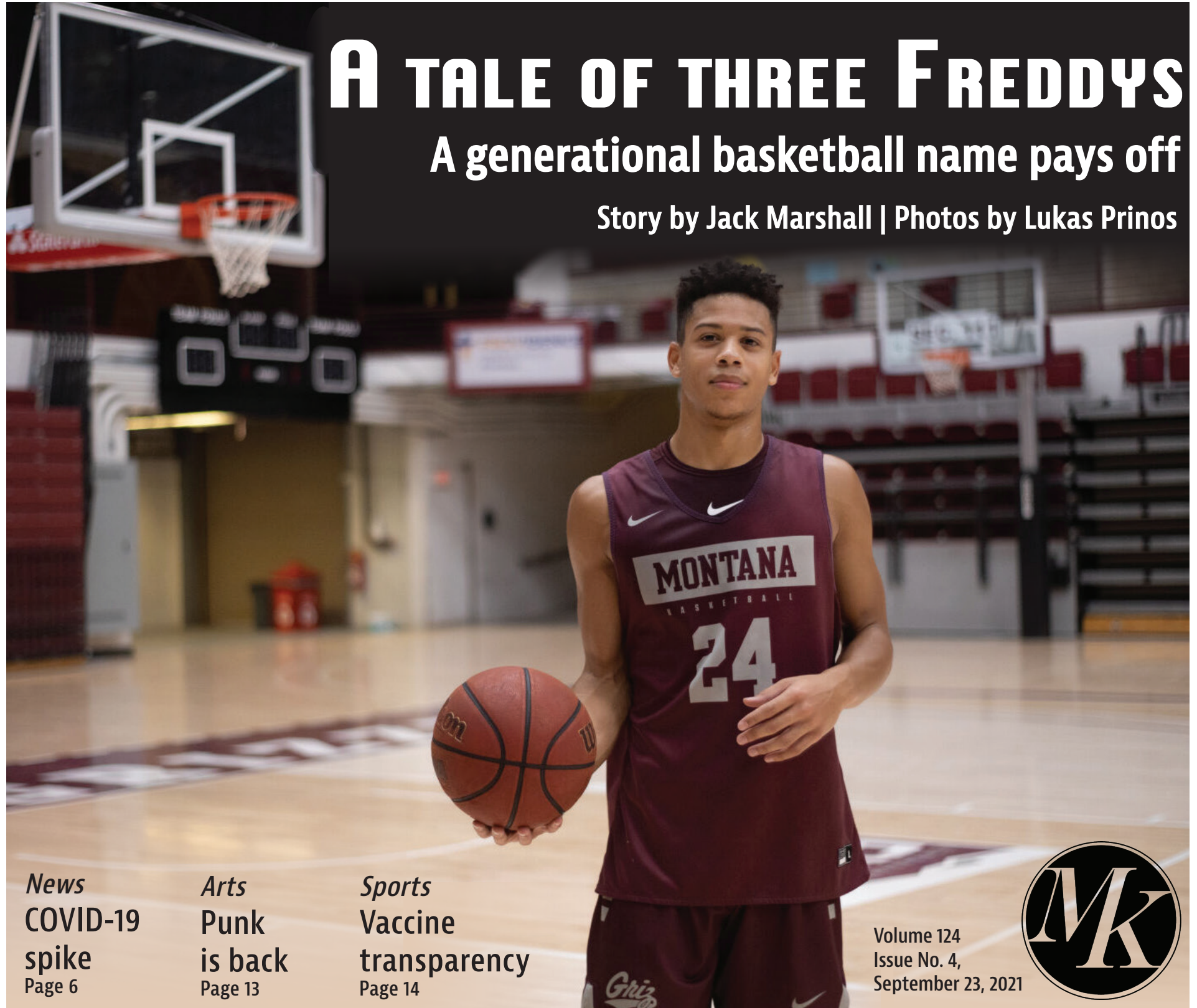


# MONTANA KAIMIN

## A TALE OF THREE FREDDYS

A generational basketball name pays off

Story by Jack Marshall | Photos by Lukas Prinos



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Volume 124  
Issue No. 4,  
September 23, 2021



Cover Photo  
Lukas Prinos



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

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## THE GARAGE: SE 1 EP 4



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# Feature Photo: Finding your beat

## “Flexibility” isn’t a policy for dealing with COVID-19



Dustin White Grass holds the drum for his son to play as they participate in a Welcome Round Dance on the Oval Sept. 17. The event was hosted by UM’s American Indian Student Services to kick off the fall 2021 semester and celebrate the welcoming of all students to campus. **KENNEDY DELAP | MONTANA KAIMIN**

On Monday, UM reported 61 active cases of COVID-19. The same day, Missoula broke its daily COVID-19 record with 1,386 total cases reported.

As a vaccinated student, I haven’t worried about being a part of these case numbers since I got my second Pfizer dose back in April. But last week, I had to get my first official COVID-19 test since February, because I was identified as a close contact.

I was lucky — I received my negative test results and only had to miss one day of class. My professor worked with me, and was accommodating for my healthcare needs.

But what about those students who aren’t so lucky — the ones who receive a positive COVID-19 result? What are they supposed to do now that having COVID-19 means missing over a week of mostly in-person classes?

Paula Short, Associate Vice President of Campus Preparedness and Response, as well as the head of UM’s COVID Response Team, said UM professors are encouraged to be flexible in accommodating students. But other than this loose recommendation, there’s no codified policy for how professors are supposed to handle students who get sick. In other words, the University doesn’t have a plan.

Short said the University encouraged flexibility because accommodating students looks different from classroom to classroom. The University is encouraging flexibility for professors who are counting attendance as part of their grade because it doesn’t want students who are feeling sick to come to class, Short added.

Without a University-wide policy in place, this recommendation of flexibility depends heavily upon individual professors to be communicative with students.

But that willingness to communicate with everything going on is confusing and distressing already, and as more and more students continue to get sick (with 20 to 25% of COVID-19 tests administered at Curry Health Center coming back positive), not having a common policy is irresponsible. We’ve spent a year doing hybrid and Zoom classes. The technology for us to make these accommodations for sick students is in place, but the University hasn’t told professors that making a plan to use them when students are sick is necessary.

The reality of the situation is that our community is breaking records for COVID-19 case numbers, and our case numbers on campus increased from 34 to 61 in a week — almost

doubling. But instead of being community leaders and encouraging sick students to stay at home from in-person classes to reduce the spread of COVID-19, the University hasn’t even provided common guidance for what students should do to keep up with school when they do get sick.

The lack of leadership is unacceptable. We’ve seen it in the last year with UM’s past COVID-19 shortcomings: with vaccinations, with COVID-19 transparency and now with sick students. UM has the resources and knowledge to do better — and it should.

— Mariah Thomas, Features Editor

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## SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

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

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

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# Briefs: COVID-19 records, Afghan refugees and more masks

### Record COVID-19 spike

The Missoula City-County Health Department reported an all-time high of 1,386 total active COVID-19 cases Monday, shattering the previous high of 1,200 cases last fall.

"We are at the point day after day in which we are breaking new records," Missoula County Public Information Officer Hayley Devlin said Monday. "It's critical to mask up, social distance, and actually hand wash often."

UM's active cases have also climbed to 61 as of Monday. At the start of the semester, less than 10 active cases were reported with the University.

As cases broke the all-time record, so did hospitalizations, with 50 COVID-19 patients in hospitals Monday. The county made a request for 24 National Guard members to help assist depleted medical staff. With the spike of cases, there has been a pause of non-urgent medical procedures at St. Patrick's hospital, Missoula's largest hospital.

Almost 20% of all cases in the county are from the 20 to 29 age range. Just under 2% of total COVID-19 cases are among the vaccinated, but recent weeks showed breakthroughs making up almost 10% of the county's cases.

"We are actively hiring contact tracers," Devlin said. (Griffen Smith)

### Afghan refugees resettle in Montana

The U.S. State Department told Montana

officials last week 75 refugees from Afghanistan are slated to be resettled in Missoula this October, eliciting a mixed response from some of Montana's leadership.

Gov. Greg Gianforte said in a statement he welcomes the refugees, many of whom supported the U.S. war effort in Afghanistan.

The war, which concluded at the end of August, lasted 20 years and caused more than 241,000 deaths since 2001, according to data from Brown University's Watson Institute. The withdrawal prompted officials to accept roughly 37,000 new refugees from the now Taliban-controlled country.

Matt Rosendale, Montana's lone representative in Congress, did not want the refugees settled in the U.S.

"I strongly oppose the resettlement of these Afghan nationals in Montana," he said in a tweet. "Following the Biden Administration's disastrously mismanaged withdrawal from Afghanistan, I warned that we could not use this Administration's incompetence to justify flooding our communities with unvetted refugees."

Wilmot Collins, Helena's mayor and a refugee from Liberia, responded to the tweet.

"This former refugee cannot wait to welcome them to Montana," Collins tweeted. "Who knows, maybe one day some of them will run for office." (GS)

### Fall mixes with Missoula's above-average summer.

As nearby peaks see the first sprinklings of snow, the Missoula region capped off one of the hottest and driest summers on record.

"For June, July and August, the average temperature was at 69.6 degrees, which is our second hottest summer on record," said Tom Nester, senior meteorologist for the Missoula National Weather Service. "It was just 0.2 degrees behind the all-time high in 2007."

The National Weather Service, which measures weather patterns by month, reported September has also been 1.1 degrees above average through Sept. 19. Nester said the warming trend might change with the La Niña weather pattern in the subtropics.

"In Montana, the pattern could give us more frequent weather disturbances, especially in higher elevations," Nester said.

For the last week of September, a high pressure system will push highs into the 80s with sunshine. (GS)

### Mask policy expanded

UM's COVID Response Team expanded the University mask requirements to all indoor spaces beyond the classroom on Monday.

At the beginning of the semester, the CRT stated it would mandate masks only in indoor classroom spaces, with the policy set for re-evaluation on Sept. 20. It then released the updated mask requirements on Sept. 17 with the changes taking effect on Sept. 20.

Masks are now required in all indoor public spaces, excluding private offices, residence hall rooms and inside UM apartments. Now the mandate applies to all academic buildings, residence hall common areas, UM dining facilities (except when actively eating and drinking), indoor galleries and performance venues, and large public areas like the University Center and the library.

This policy adjustment has no definite end date, and the CRT said these changes reflect the "disturbing trend" of rising COVID-19 cases in Missoula County.

This decision came from the President's office, rather than the Board of Regents, which has been the predominant force for COVID-19 mitigation policies for the Montana University System.

Dave Kuntz, the UM communications director, previously stated that UM would not go beyond the BOR's mitigation measures. This week, however, Kuntz said, "that judgement only applies to vaccines, and the University will act independently in its mitigation measures outside of the vaccine going forward." (Emily Tschetter)



# Blotter: Hit and runs, theft and banishment

GRACE CARR

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Between Sept. 9 and 15, University of Montana Police Department reported 25 crimes on and around campus. Criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, theft and possession of marijuana under the age of 21 were all tied for the most common crimes this week.

### SATURDAY 9/11: GAME DAY ANTICS

Washington-Grizzly Stadium was at near capacity Sept. 11 for the first Grizzly home football game of the season. The event brought fender benders, illegal parking complaints, some rowdy tailgaters and several women passed out in the stadium bathrooms. Just off campus, Fish Wildlife & Parks worked to keep a bear hiding out in a tree busy from 4 p.m. on game day until after the stadium was clear. To put it simply, FWP yelled at a bear to stay in a tree until it was safe for it to come down. The current status of the bear is unknown.

### SATURDAY 9/11: HIT, HIT, HIT AND RUN

Was that a gunshot? No, a firework? Maybe a car backfired? Sike! It's just a very bad driver. On the morning of Sept. 11, a series of hit-and-runs were reported at the Sisson Apartments. The driver hit three cars, but officers were unable to locate the "run" vehicle at fault. Victims of the accident included one Subaru, one Ford and one Mini Cooper.

### SUNDAY 9/12: BANISHED FROM BANNACK

How does one create a concoction of verbal disturbances, disorderly conduct and criminal mischief in one crime log entry? All you need is a loud argument, some front door vandalism and a dash of trespassing. In the early morning on Sept. 12, UMPD was called to Bannack Court to settle a verbal argument between a man and a woman. The woman told officers the property was damaged, but there was little

cooperation from those at the residence (which UMPD would respond to two more times that week) when they arrived. However, the women requested the man be removed from property permanently as he was not a student and had no reason to stay at UM Housing. Nothing ends an argument like banishment.

### SUNDAY 9/12: TWO COUNTS OF LEAFY GREENS

It was a skunky week at University of Montana, with four of the crimes being possession of evil edamame under the age of 21. Two instances took place on the same day. Within a half hour of each other, resident assistants reported two students for smoking that spicy rabbit food in Jesse Hall and Miller Hall.

### MONDAY 9/13: UP TONNEAU GOOD

Fall is officially upon us as the leaves are turning color and the mornings are getting

chilly. But the one thing not changing around campus is the ambition of thieves. On the morning of Sept. 13, there were two reports of theft from a motor vehicle in parking lots Y and G. One student vehicle lost a bag of tools valued at \$600, boots, a Yeti cooler and damage to a tonneau cover, which was sliced and diced. The other was a Garden City Plumbing & Heating truck, which lost some tools. No suspects have been identified in the thefts or vandalism of the innocent tonneau cover. On a campus of broke college students, no vehicle is safe.

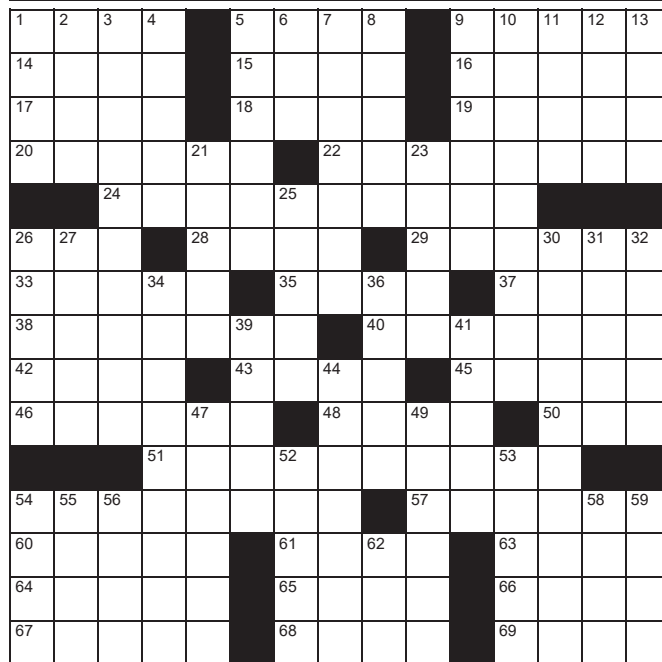
### TUESDAY 9/14: YOU SHOULD KNOW BY NOW

It would not be a proper crime blotter without a stolen bike, and there is only one this week folks. Someone swiped it from a bike rack outside Miller Hall between Sept. 13 and 14, despite supposedly being locked. If you want to know how to lower your chances of having your bike stolen, reach out to UMPD for more information.



# The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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## ACROSS

- 1 Like some streets
- 5 Maintain
- 9 Drinking aid
- 14 Castle, in chess
- 15 Dogtag datum
- 16 Stable sound
- 17 Literary lioness
- 18 Flabbergast
- 19 Boredom
- 20 Playground fixture
- 22 Pastel hue
- 24 Say "All dogs chase squirrels", e.g.
- 26 Luxurious resort
- 28 Cave, in poetry
- 29 Ironfisted ruler
- 33 Short and to the point
- 35 Ration (out)
- 37 Place to build
- 38 Plug a product, e.g.
- 40 Barn owl's prey
- 42 Breezed through
- 43 Little bouquet
- 45 Stopwatch button
- 46 Dennis of comics, for one
- 48 Commotion
- 50 Give it a go
- 51 Words of outrage
- 54 Like some gymnastics bars
- 57 Cherry red color
- 60 Taper off
- 61 Seaweed, for one
- 63 Copies
- 64 Gastric woe
- 65 Email option
- 66 Escape slowly
- 67 A little suspicious
- 68 Quiz answer
- 69 Swirling current
- 25 Juliet's beloved
- 26 Cook, as clams
- 27 VP before Harris
- 30 Like some suits
- 31 Playful swimmer
- 32 Short-tempered
- 34 Carbonated mixer
- 36 Use a dressing room
- 39 Witch's work
- 41 Went for a spin
- 44 "Zoolander" actor
- 47 Stalk vegetable
- 49 The '70s, say
- 52 Part of math's LCD
- 53 Wipe clean
- 54 Reiser or Rudd
- 55 Up to snuff
- 56 Olympics event
- 58 Bird feeder filler
- 59 Glimpse
- 62 Safari sight

## DOWN

- 1 "\_\_\_ bien!"
- 2 Pocket problem
- 3 White House setting
- 4 Russian edict
- 5 Peeked-at item
- 6 Vintner's vessel
- 7 Take after
- 8 Of the kidneys
- 9 Allergic reaction
- 10 Graceland's state
- 11 Fruit covering
- 12 Malarial fever
- 13 Blender sound
- 21 Inflamm
- 23 MTV feature

## Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

# Arts | Horoscope

## Let's get our Mid-Autumn Festival on



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

CLARISE LARSON

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Hey team. Not to be dramatic, but the United States sucks and we need more holidays designed for eating food and drinking alcohol. NOT TO FEAR! The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival is here! Now, on the down-low, the Chinese zodiac doesn't ~perfectly~ line up with our typical zodiac, so we are making this shit work. In honor of a very awesome tradition across the world (that you should look up because it's too long to explain in this little tiny space), we dedicate this horoscope to the Chinese zodiac... with a saucy twist, of course.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):** Cock a doodle, am I right? It's time to GET SHIT DONE! Being the rooster you are, you wake up at the literal ass-crack of dawn so you can make sure your roommate isn't awake to fuck up the kitchen while you're making breakfast.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** Does it smell like updog in here? WHAT'S UP DOG?? Yes, you're the dog. You're probably the favorite child because your personality is floofy and easy to like, but high-key if the vibe is off you might bite. ;)

**SCORPIO (OC. 23-NOV. 21):** Like most politicians, you are a bit of a bore. Wait, we mean boar. You are a diplomatic and honest little piggy. Just remember a white lie here and there might save you from becoming bacon in the long run.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22):** Hey lil nasty rat with your lil hunk of stolen cheese. You sneaky son of a bitch.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19):** Everybody thinks you're big and tough like the ox you are, but inside, you're a fragile little caterpillar waiting for the chance to spread your wings.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** Like most cats, you are cute and all, but low-key plotting the murder of your owner.

That's why you're the tiger. You feel nothing, but you're seggy so it's fine. <3

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):** You're like a rabbit: fucking left and right and cuddling 'n' shit, but then the second someone catches feelings you GTFO. You don't know when to quit, but at least you have fun doing it.

**ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):** You're a dragon because dragons are big and big = pOwEr! Aries, angel, you're pretty and all, but you're demanding as hell and also your breath is more painful to be hit with than the fire of a dragon. Tic Tac?

**TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):** There's a SNEK in my boot! Only if that boot is a high-top Doc Marten though, NO CAP. Snakes are seen as wise and grounded in the Chinese zodiac, so basically, we're interpreting that as you are good at putting together a FIT. Respect the drip.

**GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):** POV: You're gracefully galloping in a field of sunflowers and then all the sudden someone lightly pulls the reins and you BUCK them the hell off you for even thinking they could control a single aspect of you. Gemini, you DIY your DIY and stay in control at all costs.

**CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** Like our queen Simone Biles, you're the GOAT. No, you are not the greatest of all time, you're a little shit who eats anything and screams for no reason goat. You can be gentle from time to time, but over all, you're usually just a little shit. Plz take offense.

**LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):** Not all of you have opposable thumbs, but you do all know how to use your hands. You're a freaky monkey who knows how to get the ladies and the bananas, if you catch our drift.

# Virus spikes again: Missoula sees record-breaking COVID-19 surge, medical providers struggle to keep up

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On Monday, Sept. 20, Missoula County broke multiple records health officials did not want to break.

The county health department reported 50 COVID-19 hospitalizations, beating the previous single-day record of 43 on Nov. 7, 2020. Average daily cases per 100,000 people over a seven-day period hit 89, compared to the Nov. 21 record of 85. And the county broke its daily COVID-19 case record, reporting 1,386 total active cases.

"We just were not prepared for the surge, to be honest with you. And maybe the whole country wasn't ready," said Jeffrey Adams, the medical director of Curry Health Center.

This time last year, Missoula saw similar numbers. But there were far more mitigation measures in place, and for a less contagious strain. Now the county's COVID-19 cases are rising at a rate not seen before in the pandemic.

"We've seen many more sick-to-very-sick students this year than last year," Adams said.

Curry Health Center is just one of the many medical care providers in Missoula struggling to keep up as numbers surge and hospitals fill. An overwhelming number of cases are among the unvaccinated, according to the Missoula City-County Health Department, but neither the University of Montana nor Board of Regents has taken the step to require vaccinations for campus.

"Now is the time when we would have mandates in place. Unfortunately, we have anti-health state legislators who have gone out of their way to make that impossible," said D'Shane Barnett, Missoula County's public health director, in a press conference Sept. 17.

Barnett said last fall, people generally limited their social circles to 10 or fewer, which made contact tracing easier. This year is different. Barnett cited one case with more than 100 close contacts.

Staffing is the primary issue. At the

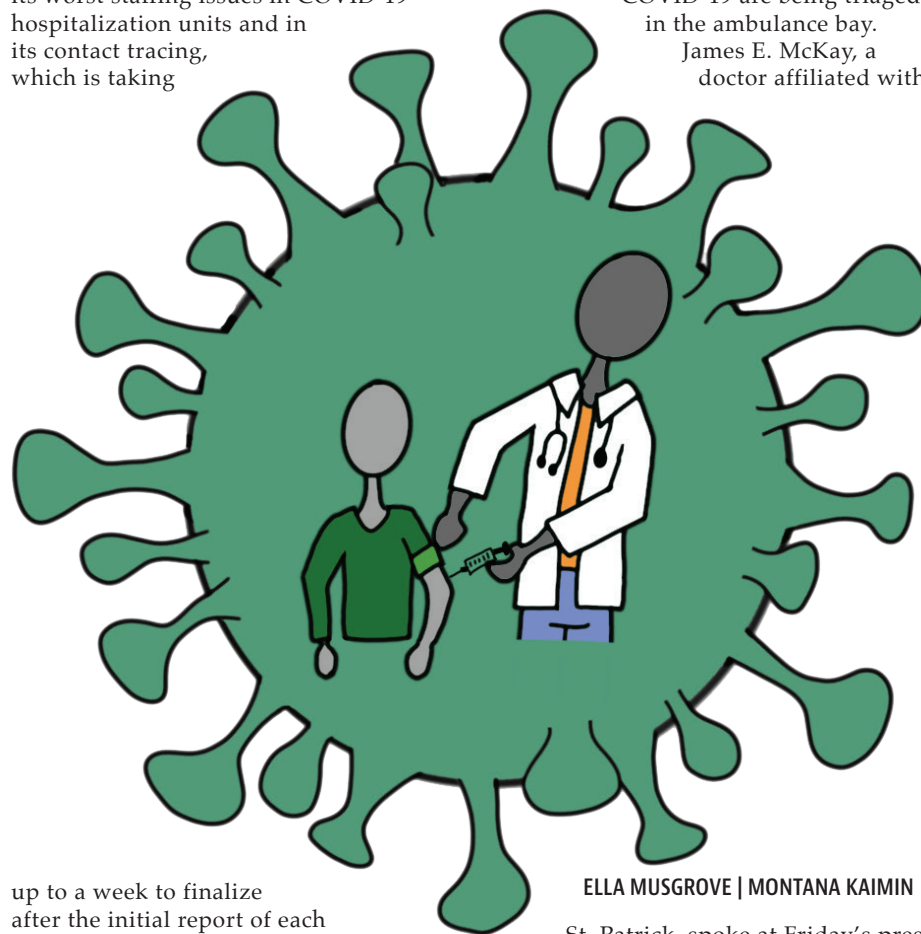
Sept. 17 press conference, Missoula Mayor John Engen announced 24 National Guard members will be available next week to provide medical support for the city.

Missoula County is experiencing its worst staffing issues in COVID-19 hospitalization units and in its contact tracing, which is taking

lutely overwhelmed," Dombrowski said in the press conference.

According to Dan Pierce, St. Patrick's Emergency Department physician, the majority of unvaccinated patients currently hospitalized with severe COVID-19 are being triaged in the ambulance bay.

James E. McKay, a doctor affiliated with



ELLA MUSGROVE | MONTANA KAIMIN

up to a week to finalize after the initial report of each positive case.

The city will also be reopening the Sleepy Inn for unhoused people with COVID-19. Engen said Missoula may also open additional facilities and field hospitals, but its problem is staff, not space.

Joyce Dombrowski, chief executive of Providence St. Patrick Hospital, asked for help from Missoulians, whom she said don't understand the situation. The hospital has 30 COVID-19 patients. Four are on ventilators. Twenty-three are unvaccinated, and the average age is lower than it was last year.

"Our emergency department is abso-

lutely overwhelmed," Dombrowski said in the press conference. He urged Missoulians to think about their families and neighbors, saying he's talked to nurses with decades of experience who were finding it hard to even come to work. McKay said all of St. Patrick's patients on ventilators were unvaccinated.

"Just because the mandates aren't there doesn't mean it's not the right thing to do," McKay said. "Wearing a mask is not a sign of weakness."

McKay said that St. Patrick had been backed up for weeks, and couldn't provide their optimal standards of care or

take patients from other hospitals. While the hospital has yet to implement crisis standards of care, which would ration out scarce resources to those most likely to survive, Dombrowski said administrators had been talking about it for several weeks.

James Gillhouse, chief operating officer of Missoula's Community Medical Center, said the center has seen a tremendous increase in COVID-19 patients. At the time of the press conference, it had 20 COVID-19 inpatients — 85% unvaccinated — which made up one third of its adult patients. The patients were skewing younger than last year, and they were getting more sick more quickly, he said.

"The COVID-19 vaccine truly is our best defense against this pandemic," Gillhouse said.

Barnett said 47% of the county's 20 to 29 age group are vaccinated, compared to the county's overall 56% vaccination rate. With the delta variant, Barnett said, young people are getting sicker.

"We need these 20, 22, 25 year olds to get vaccinated," Barnett said. "We absolutely do."

As of Monday, Missoula has 1,386 active COVID-19 cases. Those aged 20 to 49 accounted for about 50% of the active cases.

While the staffing issues at St. Patrick are being addressed through outside personnel and funding, Curry Health Center has even more widespread COVID-19 staffing issues, according to Curry Health Director Adams. The office lacks the staff and budget to serve the student body at similar capacities to last year.

"Last year we knew COVID-19 was coming, so we had money from the federal government, employees in place to cover test and lab procedures, and more mitigation efforts," Adams said. "This year, I don't think we saw it coming... and lo and behold, we got a more dangerous variant."

Adams estimates that five out of six of the positive tests at Curry are among unvaccinated individuals, and about 60% of those getting tested are vaccinated. Meanwhile, the center is administering 40-50 tests per day, which is the maximum for Curry's lab staffing and supplies.



Last year, Curry could administer double that amount. Part of this change of pace is because it lost two medical providers and a nurse last year, and two more medical staff retirements this year.

"Day after day, it's a grind to keep doing this," Adams said. "The people who left were people that just decided that this wasn't for them anymore."

In November and December, positive test rates ranged anywhere from 10 to 12%, and this semester they've been 20 to 25% of all administered tests, Adams said.

The COVID-19 services are not the only overwhelmed parts of Curry this semester, as mental health care is also at capacity. According to Adams, every counselor in the wellness center has almost every available appointment spot filled for days in advance.

Despite the high demand, Adams said every student who needs assistance will be accommodated at Curry.

"I want every student that is struggling with mental health to come in here, and we will accommodate any student that is suicidal or having severe symptoms," Adams said. "We know that a student struggling for a week can mean the difference between passing and failing a class, and three weeks could be the difference between staying in school or dropping out."

The Board of Regents could require every student in the Montana University System to get vaccinated without violating House Bill 702, the frequently referenced piece of legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of vaccination status. Despite petitions from UM's faculty senate and ASUM, UM hasn't weighed in on the issue.

HB 702, which forbids requiring proof of vaccination to access services, doesn't apply to vaccine requirements set by colleges. The Montana Code Annotated states that the Board of Regents can impose vaccination requirements not outlined in the law. BOR policy 301 states that "Individual campuses or programs may have additional immunization/testing requirements."

Dave Kuntz, UM communications director, said the University has interpreted HB 702 to mean the regents have final authority over a vaccination mandate. Montana State University's news director, Michael Becker, said MSU has the same interpretation.

Lucy France, legal counsel for UM, said this was because the authority of individual campuses was limited by the direction of the Board of Regents and the Commissioner.

University President Seth Bodnar said Montana code, which states the Board of Regents has general control and supervision over the university system, gave the regents sole authority over vaccine mandates.

Anthony Johnstone, a law professor at the University, disagrees.

"The [University's] president has the legal authority to require COVID-19 vaccines for students on campus. Whatever reason he has for not requiring vaccines, it's not in the law," Johnstone said in an email. "The law says the governing body is 'the administrator' of 'a unit of the Montana University System.' That means the President. The law says the Board of Regents when it means that. The law and policy make this a campus-level decision."

On Sept. 17, UM expanded its mask requirements beyond classrooms to most indoor spaces affiliated with the University, which went into effect Sept. 20.

In earlier interviews, Kuntz said UM would not go beyond the Board of Regents' mitigation measures. Now, though, he says that judgment only applies to vaccines, and the University will act independently in dialing up its mitigation measures.

University students make up about 8% of Missoula's population and about 5.5% of its active COVID-19 cases. However, this only accounts for students who get tested at Curry. If they get tested elsewhere, Missoula County contact tracers would have to track them back to the University, which isn't guaranteed to happen.

"This is largely a tragedy of our own making," David Strohmaier, the Missoula Board of County Commissioners Chair, said in the Friday conference.

"Your actions have consequences," Engen said during the conference. "Please remember that, and please do the right thing." He urged Missoula to mask up, social distance and get vaccinated. "This is a civic responsibility to get vaccinated."

Engen said a number of jurisdictions, including Missoula, have been seeking court action to regain the local control they had had before the last legislative session. He mentioned the state legislature was trying to get the same kind of freedom from the federal government.

"I take an irony pill every morning to get through the day, and I've had to double my dose as of late in order to reconcile some of the cognitive dissonance that I've seen come from the legislature," Engen said.

## Journalism HOMECOMING EVENT

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Friday, September 24th  
Lawn South of DAH - 2pm



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Winburn led award-winning reporting teams at **CNN**, the **Baltimore Sun**, the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, the **Hartford Courant** and the **Atlanta Journal-Constitution**. She is the author of "Shop Talk and War Stories: Journalists Examine Their Profession" and co-editor of two e-books, "Secrets of Prize-Winning Journalism 2013" and 2014.





# A TALE OF THREE FREDDYS

## A dynasty of threes

Story by Jack Marshall | Photos by Lukas Prinos

Montana's redshirt junior guard Freddy Brown III, pictured at the Dahlberg Arena during a practice session on Sept. 15, is now able to profit from his image. Because of changes in the NCAA rulebook, college athletes like Brown are now able to make money off of their name, player image and likenesses. Brown III is coming into the 2021 season with three years of eligibility to play for Montana basketball.

LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

While scrolling through posts on Instagram in July, an avid University of Montana basketball fan would have noticed Freddy Brown III, a guard on the team, posing in an advertisement.

The ad was simple — just Brown III holding a white water bottle with a tear-drop logo while sitting in the University of Montana's gym. A second photo showed him wiping sweat off his brow while casually holding the bottle in his free hand. A basketball with the NCAA brand sat between his legs.

In the past years or even months, this would've been illegal for Brown III. He and the University may have even experienced sanctions.

But this year, when Brown III posed in that ad, he wasn't just making a quick dollar. He was benefiting from a monumental rule change in college athletics that gave him an option his famous basketball family never had.

"It just shows how much times have changed," Brown III said. "From generation to generation."

He's the third Freddy Brown to play college basketball, but he's the first in his family to be able to profit from advertisements, thanks to the rule change passed this year by the NCAA. Starting on July 1, athletes could make money off their "name, image, and likenesses (NIL)" for the first time.

The brand of water Brown III held on Instagram is PathWater, which frequently features promoters with a strong social media influence. Brown III fit the bill. He has the most Instagram followers of any University of Montana athlete — currently sitting at 12,700.

But Brown III isn't the first of his family to be in the spotlight.

Brown III's grandpa, Freddy Brown, was an All-Star in the National Basketball Association when he played for the Seattle SuperSonics. Because of his innate ability to score, especially from long range, Brown was nicknamed Downtown Freddy Brown.

Downtown Brown's former college

coach Dick Schultz described him in an interview as "a classy guy — honest and straightforward." Brown III and his sister both saw Brown as not only a great role model, but also a great grandfather.

Brown played for the SuperSonics for 13 seasons, where he scored over 14,000 points and became the franchise leader in games played. He made thousands while playing in the NBA. But, when he played basketball at the University of Iowa, he didn't make a cent off his talent.

The NCAA policy forbidding student athletes from earning money other than scholarships and other minor benefits wasn't challenged in court until a lawsuit in 2014.





Brown III's grandfather, left, also known as "Downtown" Freddy Brown, stands next to Freddy Brown III, and Brown III's father, Fred Brown Jr. "Downtown" Freddy Brown played for the Seattle SuperSonics and is well known among the Seattle NBA team fanbase. **FREDDY BROWN III | CONTRIBUTED**

Former University of California Los Angeles basketball player Ed O'Bannon noticed a player in a college basketball video game looked like him, had his number and played for his former college.

O'Bannon filed a lawsuit against the NCAA claiming it was profiting off his name, image and likeness. O'Bannon won the lawsuit and college sports video games were discontinued, but the NCAA rules relating to athletes profiting off their images stayed the same.

In September 2019, the NCAA's NIL policy was once again challenged, this time by legislation passed in the state of California that would prohibit schools from punishing athletes who accept endorsements while in college. On Oct. 29, 2019, the NCAA board of governors officially decided to modernize its NIL policy, setting a deadline of January 2021 to finalize its new rules.

But when the deadline rolled around, the NCAA decided to delay its vote.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court heard a case regarding NIL policy. It ruled the NCAA was violating the law by preventing student athletes from making money off their images.

After the Supreme Court's ruling, the NCAA adopted its rule change. It was a landmark decision.

After that decision, the NCAA informed

UM Athletic Director Kent Haslam and other athletic directors around the country that universities must make their own NIL policies if there wasn't already a state policy in place. Montana didn't have a preexisting policy, so it had to create one for UM athletes.

"We certainly, as an institution, have guardrails," Haslam said. "We have to monitor what our student athletes are doing."

Student athletes at UM must fill out a form when they get NIL deals that indicates who they are partnering with and how much money they are making.

UM's NIL policy makes sure that student athletes cannot use Montana's logo or identifiable facilities to make money. The policy also states athletes cannot partner with brands that are associated with tobacco, gambling, alcohol, recreational marijuana or athletic performance enhancing drugs.

Haslam said he was glad to see the policy changed so student athletes were allowed to profit off their image.

"It just never made sense that a college student could freelance and write an article for the New Yorker magazine and get paid for it, but our student athletes couldn't do that," Haslam said. "I'm glad to see changes were made."

Brown III's partnership with PathWater

## CASHING IN: UM ATHLETES WITH DEALS



**SOPHIA STILES**

**Basketball**

Stiles is an UPTOP Athlete.

UPTOP is a Montana-based clothing company co-founded by former University of Montana football player Colt Anderson.

UPTOP gives its athletes free clothing and allows them to model on its Instagram page. Football players Jace Lewis, Gabe Sulser and Cam Humphrey are also UPTOP athletes.



**UPTOP**



**AJ FORBES**

**Football**

Forbes started his own online store where he sells merchandise with his logo, which features the letters "AJ" in a diamond shape.

His merchandise features his jersey number, 57, and an outline of Montana.

Forbes also has a deal with Celsius Energy Drink.



**AJ Forbes Brand**



**Celsius Energy Drink**



**SAMUEL AKEM**

**Football**

Akem has numerous deals with companies. One of the deals is with Mamba Watches, a company that makes watches using reclaimed wood. The code "AKEM18" can get users 10% off purchases on the Mamba Watch website.

Akem also has deals with the following companies:

- Farmers Union Insurance
- TIDL Sport
- Yoke Gaming
- UPTOP
- GoPuff
- Opensponsorship



**FARMERS UNION INSURANCE**



**TIDL SPORT**



**YOKE GAMING**



**UPTOP**



**GoPuff**



**Opensponsorship**

MARIAH KARIS | MONTANA KAIMIN





Freddy Brown III carries a long basketball legacy in his family. His grandfather played with the Seattle SuperSonics and was known by the Sounders fanbase as "Downtown Freddy Brown." Brown says he hopes to continue his family's traditions. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

started when the brand reached out to him on Instagram. He gets a percentage of profits when PathWater customers use the code "FREDDYPATH" to get 15% off their order.

"Freddy's got a pretty good name in the basketball community. Not just locally, but nationwide," said Brown III's dad, Fred Brown Jr. "I knew there was going to be an opportunity for him to do something."

Brown III also has a partnership with VIDSIG, a global chat platform that allows fans to pay celebrities and athletes for

personalized videos or live virtual conversations. Customers can even pay \$45 to receive a personalized message from penguins at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

Brown III has made money thanks to UM's new policy, but long before he was benefiting off his family name, he first had to live up to it.

Brown and his sister, Katia Brown, were both raised in Neah Bay, Washington. Neah Bay is home to the Makah Tribe, of which Brown III, his mom Tina and Katia are members.

As soon as Brown III could walk, he had a basketball in his hand.

"Basketball was everything (growing up)," he said. "I've always been in the gym."

Brown III and his sister were both mentored by the eldest Freddy Brown, who shared his love for the game and knowledge about professional basketball.

"He took us to the gym when we were super young and he told us some great insight... you know just shooting tips... mentally putting your focus where you want," Brown III, said.

Katia Brown had a successful high school basketball career and played at North Idaho College before hurting her knee. While she was in college, athletes still could not make money off their likeness.

"I didn't get a lot of financial help like how Freddy is getting," Katia said. "If I were able to do something like ... he does, I wouldn't have had to work while I was in college and playing sports."

Growing up, she and Brown III were very close and rarely fought.

"We were pretty much like each other's best friends," Katia said. "He's a really caring person."

Katia added that today, she and her brother still have the same relationship. They're just living farther apart.

"It's really hard not having my brother here all the time," she said. Katia currently works at an early learning academy in Tulia, Washington.

Brown III's parents were just as invested in basketball as his record-setting grandfather. The two met while they were playing college basketball at Edmonds Community College. Tina Brown said she had no idea of the basketball heritage of her future husband.

"I lived out in Neah Bay, where we had only three (TV) channels back in the day," she said. "And that was only when the weather was nice."

Brown III said he and his mom have a close relationship. Tina used to take him to tournaments across Washington.

His mom still participates in tournaments on the Makah reservation. His dad, Brown Jr., still coaches.

Brown Jr. frequently went to SuperSonics practices with the eldest Brown. He earned the nickname "Midtown" from the players.

Once while Downtown Fred Brown was judging the 1987 NBA Slam Dunk Contest, a young Midtown Fred Brown was able to meet Michael Jordan, an experience he remembers to this day. Like his father, Brown Jr. was also good at basketball, and earned a Division I offer from the University of Iowa to play in college.

But it was coaching in the basketball world that beckoned Brown Jr., who now

coaches at the College of Southern Idaho, a junior college in Twin Falls. The school claims to have more wins in its history than any other junior college in the country, and Brown Jr. plays an integral part in its success.

"We're getting kids that are probably, most of them, non-qualifiers (for college) coming out of high school," he said. "So I try to teach them life skills."

With the new NIL rules in place, Brown Jr. says he teaches athletes to preserve their name for when they make it to a higher level. And Brown Jr. has good reason for that advice. More than 18 players from the College of Southern Idaho not only made it to the Division I level, but also to the NBA.

When Brown Jr. was playing basketball, his dad was like a coach to him, so when Brown III was growing up, it was no different.

"When he wasn't doing things the right way I would get on him too, just like everybody else," Brown Jr. said.

Brown III was also coached by prominent high school basketball coach and former NBA star Brandon Roy.

Brown III spent two seasons playing high school basketball in Marysville, Washington, before transferring to Nathan Hale High School in Seattle. It was at Nathan Hale where Brown III's basketball career took off.

The school won the Washington state championship in Brown III's junior year, with the help of future NBA player Michael Porter Jr. on the court and Roy's coaching from the sidelines. That season, Nathan Hale played top prep schools from all over the nation, often on national television, and didn't lose a single game.

"It was crazy," Brown III said. "Playing for Brandon Roy himself was just unbelievable."

Thanks to his successful high school basketball career, Brown III picked up interest from the UM basketball team, coached by Travis DeCuire.

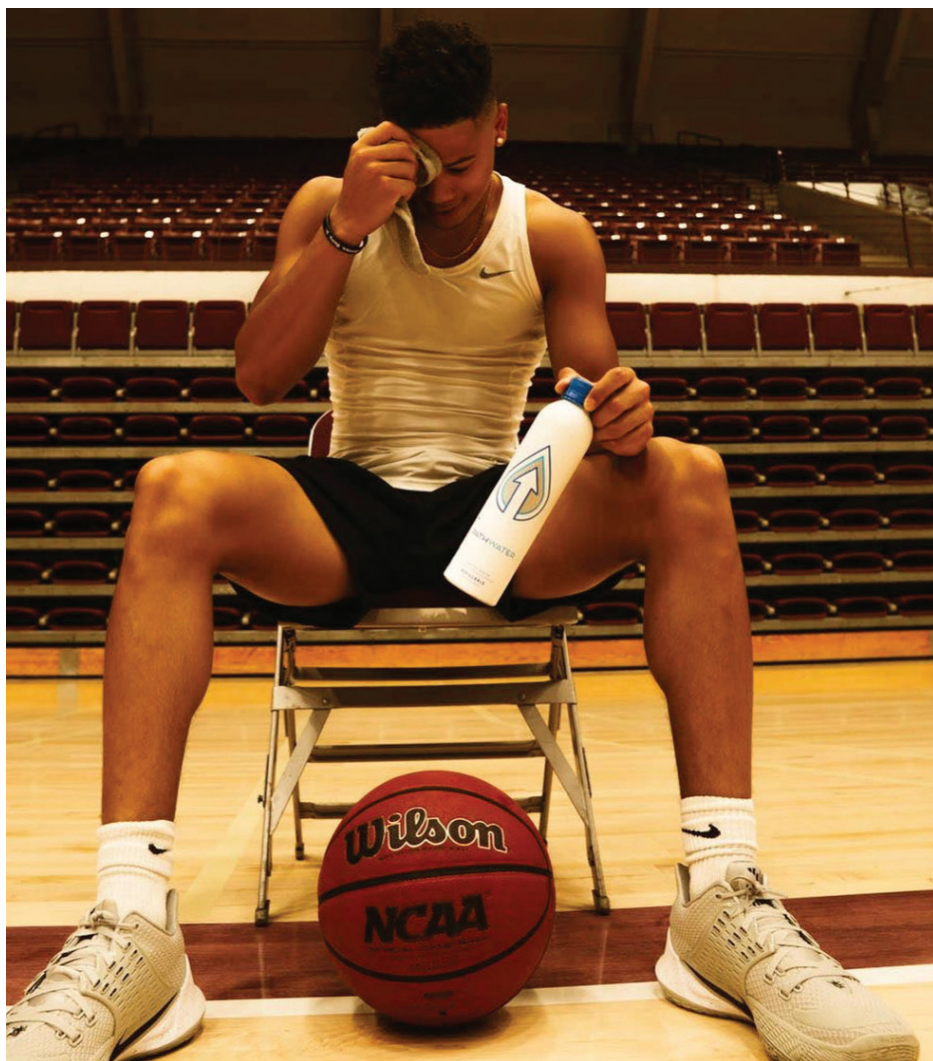
DeCuire played high school basketball with Brown Jr., and Brown III said DeCuire was like an uncle to him. Brown III accepted an offer to walk on to the UM basketball team in 2018.

In 2019, Brown III's first year with Montana, the Griz made it to March Madness, the NCAA's yearly basketball tournament that draws in billions of dollars in revenue.

"Any time they succeed on a really big stage it opens up people talking about them, finding out more about them," Haslam said. "That's one of the benefits of being a student athlete."

For Brown III, the trip to March Madness was eye-opening, showing him just how much money existed in college athletics.





Freddy Brown III poses with a PathWater water bottle in a paid instagram advertisement.  
**FREDDY BROWN III | CONTRIBUTED**

“We flew on a charter flight just as a team,” Brown III said. “When we landed, we had a police escort from the hotel to the gym.”

In 2019, the NCAA was still deliberating on NIL policy rules, so Brown III and his teammates couldn’t benefit financially from the exposure they received at the tournament. The 2022 NCAA tournament will be the first one since the passing of the NCAA’s new policies.

Brown III has been a member of the Montana basketball team for three years. Because of his redshirt year and the year of COVID-19, he has only used up one of his years of NCAA eligibility, leaving him with three more basketball seasons ahead. In the 24 games he’s appeared in, he’s only scored 34 total points. But Brown III has shown some of his generational shooting ability, making 37.5% of his shots from downtown.

Other UM athletes also have benefited from NIL deals. UM football player Samuel Akem boasts multiple endorsements on his Instagram account, including one with

watch company Mamba Watches. Multiple athletes have also partnered with media outlet Barstool Sports to become “Barstool Athletes.”

Haslam said a big part of athlete sponsorships is education for players who receive these endorsements.

“I think our role really in college athletics is ... helping our student athletes understand you’re going to be paying taxes on this,” he said. “You’re going to be entering into your own business opportunities.”

Haslam said he doesn’t know how many NIL deals are in place at UM, but it is not a high number. He said that while some sponsors may want to donate money to athletes rather than the school, UM hasn’t felt any financial losses.

“I’ll say that the sky’s not falling,” Haslam said. “College athletics is still doing just fine; this is not going to bring a crash to the collegiate system.”

He joked if NIL deals were available when he was playing college baseball, he “wouldn’t have been smart enough to



Brown sits in the locker room during Montana’s appearance at the 2019 NCAA March Madness Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa. **FREDDY BROWN III | CONTRIBUTED**

figure out how to do that.” But Haslam said athletes with social media presences like Brown III’s should continue to find opportunities in the NIL realm.

Brown III has been working on a degree in business marketing, which he will receive in December 2021. He has an academic scholarship and plans to get a master’s degree. He also recently received an athletic scholarship from UM.

“I came to UM with a ... passion to work hard and prove that I could play at the Division I level,” he said. “I earned myself a full basketball scholarship.”

He said if any more NIL deals come his way, he’ll definitely take them.

In the summer of 2021, Brown III spent his time playing in a summer professional/amateur league in Seattle with his dad and grandpa in the audience. He wants to continue treating basketball as an art form more than as a game.

Brown III’s family has been creating their art on the court for generations, and the youngest member of the dynasty will continue this pattern when UM kicks off

its season on Nov. 9. The only difference will be that Brown III is now making money while perfecting his art.

***“I came to UM with a passion to work hard and prove that I could play at Division I level. I earned myself a full basketball scholarship.”***

***-Freddy Brown III***



# MFA showcase explores how trauma is ‘Lost in Translation’

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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The seven pieces of local exhibition “Lost in Translation,” the University Center Gallery’s new exhibit, are reminiscent of signs at a roadside bar, in that almost every work is spelled in varying shades of neon. Thistles, masks and other objects cast in clay surround neon lights spelling different words in different languages and colors.

UC Gallery Director Amanda Barr said the contrast in her master thesis exhibition is intentional, to signify the barriers trauma can create in communication, specifically for people with disabilities. Playing with language, color and historical references, the installation features seven pieces that address issues of physical, emotional and mental trauma during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It just became something I was thinking about and talking about so much more and the struggles of communicating when you have trauma, when you have a disability,” Barr said. “I make work about things that are really vital to me in a way to communicate those struggles and frustrations and empathy.”

Barr, who has had a disability her whole life, said her MFA thesis is a product of her experiences during the pandemic. Diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, a connective tissue disorder that compromises the immune system, Barr said she was in constant limbo until she got vaccinated for COVID-19. Because of this, Barr’s MFA thesis changed from an interactive showcase to an exhibition about barriers in communication.

The result was something rarely seen in contemporary ceramics: neon.

“There’s a rich history of artists using neon,” said Trey Hill, a professional sculptor and Barr’s adviser at UM. “That being said, in the field of contemporary ceramics, there’s not a lot of people using neon. I think it’s a great material to use with the clay, because it’s so different, but it’s also a nice pairing.”

To make each piece, Barr learned to bend the glass tubing, vacuum out the air and then pump it with either argon or neon. Though neon is traditionally seen in out-

door settings, Barr’s art caught more than her adviser’s attention.

“The neon itself is not something traditionally in art and it’s a lot more modern,” said Whitney Gardipee, a senior art student at UM. “I like it.”

But Barr said she didn’t include neon for the aesthetic alone. Themes of isolation, loneliness and death are expressed through the colors, words and objects comprising her showcase. Each instance of red, green, purple or blue means something different, but all tie into Barr’s recurring theme of trauma.

The piece “Tlamanalstli,” which means “sacrifice” in Nahuatl, is bright red, to represent death. Pinched porcelain flowers and masks cast in clay dangle on threads in front of a red neon sign, right above a stack of clay-cast animal skulls. To the right is a small caption, with an August tweet by @shitfarrt reading, “im willing to sacrifice old fat and disabled people for a return to normalcy.”

“Consent,” which features a blue neon sign hanging in front of a mirror, follows a similar theme of reflection — this time on the self, rather than others. Barr said she chose the word “consent” because it’s simple English, and a word “no one seems to understand.”

But not every art piece is spelled out so clearly.

In the front of the gallery sits a kiln-cast glass display of five hands spelling the word A-L-O-N-E in American Sign Language. The hands are LED-lit, rather than neon, which Barr said is intentional.

“The Deaf community have their own culture, social beliefs and practices, history, values and shared institutions, apart from the hearing world for a reason,” she said. “I wanted this piece to really showcase the isolation that disability can create.”

Despite the heavy subject of her work, Barr said she enjoyed crafting her exhibition. Specifically that’s because she got to work with neon and craft her frustrations that often get lost in translation.

“Lost in Translation” is on display in the UC Gallery Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. until Sep. 24.



Gallery visitor Jason Neal looks at one of Amanda Barr’s pieces from the “Lost in Translation” exhibit at the University Center on Sept. 10. Barr, who is also the the University Center Gallery director, put together this gallery as part of her master thesis for UM’s MFA program. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**



# The punk scene is back in action

JOSH MOYAR

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Last Thursday night, dozens of punks, skaters and everyone in between attended a punk show at Mobash Skate Park, which featured three different bands and a whole lot of noise.

The show was put on by local do-it-yourself punk and hardcore booking company Dead Eye Productions. It was the first show producer Cameron Smith has booked since March of 2020, just before COVID-19 hit.

A skate park may seem like a strange place for a concert, but Smith was confident in the decision to do the show outside, given the recent spike in COVID-19 cases.

The evening started at 7 p.m. sharp, as the flier said. No infamous “punk time” for this show. The opening band, Bozeman-based Geimhreadh, fronted by Bob Scratchet, scratched the sunset over the Clark Fork River with sounds of heavy metal and fat guitar rips. Geimhreadh has played in Missoula before, and Scratchet plans for the band to roll back into town in the near future.

At around 8:15 p.m., the main event took to the floor. Escuela Grind, a popular Massachusetts-based punk group, made a pit stop at the skatepark while traveling for their national tour. The three-person band, fronted by Katerina Economou, only had to play a few chords before the mosh pit began. The band played a relatively short set in front of a projection screen while the crowd bathed in the very loud music.

The show ended with a local group, Panic Boner, that producer Smith described as “an experimental noise group.” Experimental, indeed. The constantly fluctuating number of people who made up the band, including a handful of current and past UM students, played just about anything you can imagine, from tubas and clarinets to the classical instrument uncooked beef ribs.

“Everybody in the group plays whatever makes a sound, pretty much,” Panic Boner’s lead noise-maker and UM student Isaiah Demantrez said. This was the first live show the group has participated in, but said they have high hopes for the future.

“We’ll keep on doing what we’re doing with the utmost energy and noise destruction possible!” Demantrez said.

By 9:30 p.m., Demantrez’s bass guitar was smashed into bits, dogs were devouring the leftover ribs and the show was winding down.

Smith said he was thrilled with the success of the show.

“[The show] honestly was the sickest show we’ve had in a very long time, and the turnout was fantastic,” he said. “All the bands ripped and had me smiling the whole time. It was so awesome to see and experience ... We had a great show.”

If all goes well, this will be the first of many shows this coming semester, at a variety of venues including parks, bars and even private homes.



Massachusetts-based punk band Escuela Grind’s Katerina Economou sings in front of concert-hungry skating and rollerblading Missoulians at Mobash Skate Park on Sept. 17. Escuela Grind turned Missoula’s famous downtown skate park into a mosh pit with fans rocking out and enjoying themselves.

MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

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# UM athletics will not specify vaccination numbers among student athletes

TYE BROWN

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As Missoula contends with a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases, the University of Montana Department of Athletics continues to refuse to report exact vaccination numbers among student athletes.

"Our medical staff is encouraging vaccinations," Kent Haslam, the University of Montana Director of Athletics, stated through email. "I am encouraging vaccinations. I have been in numerous meetings with student athletes where coaches have encouraged vaccinations."

Haslam, however, would not disclose the exact percentage of student athletes who are vaccinated, claiming stipulations in Montana law that bar the release of personal medical information. While the controversial House Bill 702 prohibits discrimination based on vaccination status, it does not prevent the Department of Athletics from releasing the exact overall percentage of vaccinated student athletes, provided that the information was given willingly.

"There's absolutely no privacy issue or HB 702 issue with reporting out on an aggregate, non-identifiable basis the percentage" of those who have volunteered their vaccination status, said Anthony Johnstone, a professor at UM's Blewett School of Law.

According to an article published Aug. 21 by The Montana Standard, Brent Vigen, head coach of the Montana State University Bobcats football team, confirmed that his program reached a COVID-19 vaccination rate of around 90%. This complies with Big Sky Conference recommendations that each team have a vaccination rate of above 80%.

"Throwing a mask on every once in a while so we can keep moving forward isn't that big of a deal," Vigen commented

*Our football team is 90% vaccinated!*



in the article.

Haslam said updates on the collective vaccination percentage of student athletes are provided to him by the department's medical staff, since unvaccinated students are required to present a negative COVID-19 test once a week. Yet Haslam only confirmed that the vaccination rate is "significantly higher" than the Missoula county average of 65%.

JC Weida, the head athletic trainer for the football program, stated through email, "Specific to COVID we are focusing on educating everyone in our department on

the importance of getting vaccinated and using all levels of mitigation. The NCAA, the Big Sky Conference and the CDC are saying and doing the same thing."

Still, it is largely the responsibility of individual coaches to encourage their athletes to receive vaccinations and to practice common-sense COVID-19 safety techniques.

UM Athletics twice denied requests for an interview with head football coach Bobby Hauck, who oversees the largest sports program on campus, about his team's specific coronavirus mitigation measures. Re-

*SHHHHHHHH!*



MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

quests to interview several football players were also denied.

Coaches Travis DeCuire of the men's basketball team and Allison Lawrence of the volleyball team also declined to be interviewed.

Earlier this month, the football team canceled a pre-season agreement with ASUM Transportation when some players refused to follow TSA and CDC masking guidelines on its buses, according to Jordan Hess, director of transportation at ASUM. These guidelines are set to expire in January 2022.

"ASUM Transportation received some federal funds and has to pass through Mountain Line, so we're subject to all of the federal requirements," Hess said. "Whether it's the charter service or whether it's day-to-day public transportation service, we're subject to that federal mask mandate. We're really happy to have that, for the protection of our employees and the protection of the traveling public and all of the students that use our service."

Clint May, head coach of Montana's cross country

and track & field programs, was willing to speak about the steps he and his student athletes are taking to combat COVID-19.

"We'll follow exactly what the school has asked, which is that every unvaccinated student athlete will be tested every single week," May said. "Anyone positive will be asked to go to quarantine. When we're inside, whether it's a group of 20 or the whole team of 90, we're asking them to mask."

He added, "When we're on a bus, we're masked."



# Opinion: UM's copper and gold uniforms should be an every-season thing

JACK MARSHALL

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This season, the University of Montana football team unveiled some new maroon and silver uniforms that are very classy and have brought the Griz good luck. But the Grizzlies' iconic copper and gold 1990 color scheme needs to come back.

"A classic look never goes out of style," tweeted the official Griz football account back in 2018, the last time Montana flaunted its copper and gold colorway. If only that sentiment had stayed.

After wearing perhaps the greatest throwback uniform of all time in 2018, Montana has stopped wearing copper and gold. Maroon and silver aren't bad, it's just that copper and gold are so damn good.

Montana's retro colorway allows its boomer fans to reminisce about the glory days, while UM students can throw these colors on as a trendy vintage look — despite not being alive when the colors were last officially used. There have been a few variations of the copper and gold uniforms, but the most recent ones UM wore were the best.

The 2018 throwback uniforms were straight-up sexy. The copper and gold jersey was complemented by silver pants and white socks. A gold "Montana" was displayed just above the gold-outlined white jersey numbers.

Perhaps the best part of the uniform was the helmet, which was a shiny silver color similar to Montana's current helmets. The helmets had white face masks and a copper and gold Griz sticker that was certainly more aesthetic than UM's current maroon logo.

Montana wore the throwbacks when Griz legend Dave Dickenson, who led Montana to its 1995 championship, returned to Missoula. UM, with the help of its flashy uniforms, won the game, and the Griz nation rejoiced.

"Who knew Montana had some of the cleanest jersey's in the game?" one fan commented on Twitter. "These are still my favorite Griz unis," added another.

And then, the copper and gold disappeared. For the last three years, Montana has stuck with simplicity, only wearing the maroon and silver.

The retro uniforms bring the Griz good luck. In the 2018 game, Montana won 41-34. In 2015, when Montana wore a version of the copper and gold uniforms with white helmets, it beat Northern Arizona at

home 23-14.

In 2008, Montana wore the jerseys for the first time since its national championship, in a game against Montana State. UM warmed up in its normal uniforms and then ran out in the throwbacks. The Griz proceeded to kick the doors off MSU, 35-3.

Bringing back some of the 1995 national championship mojo against MSU might be a key to breaking the Bobcats' four-game

win streak in the rivalry series.

And of course, the copper and gold colors treated Montana well in the 1995 season, when it won the program's first national championship. Any Griz fan who says the copper and gold colors aren't good luck is lying to themselves.

The copper and gold represent a time in the '90s when the Griz became good at football, but also a time when UM was

popular. It was the place to be: Montana's iconic mascot Monte had just arrived, enrollment was on the upswing and "A River Runs Through it" had just been released.

The vibes were immaculate.

If Montana truly wants to return to dominance, wearing copper and gold uniforms once a year may just be the solution.



UM ATHLETICS | CONTRIBUTED



Former Griz quarterback Dalton Sneed sprints to score a touchdown in the first quarter of a UM game in 2018. The Griz unveiled throwback copper and gold uniforms for the game, honoring Griz legend Dave Dickenson. ELI IMADALI | MONTANA KAIMIN



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# Helicopters on campus

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With packs and helmets strapped to the front of their bodies and ear plugs in place, cadets with the University of Montana Army ROTC boarded two CH-47 Chinook helicopters at the River Bowl fields on Friday as they headed for Fort Harrison in Helena for a once-per-semester weekend Field Training Exercise.

At Fort Harrison, cadets took part in obstacle course competitions, hand grenade assault courses, automatic weapons training, rifle and pistol qualifications and paintball tactics.

The Montana Army National Guard provided the pilots and the two helicopters.

UM ROTC Executive Officer Patrick Beckwith said this month's Field Training Exercise is designed to expose cadets to the fundamentals of military training and teamwork, and a little fun on the side, like

getting the chance to fly in military-grade helicopters.

UM Army ROTC Scholarship and Enrollment Officer Tracy Mitchell said most cadets had the opportunity to attend the training sessions in Helena.

"Field Training Exercises are like the fun part of ROTC, so everybody really wants to go," she said. "Cadets don't always get to fly, but when they do it's just like that attitude of this fun little bonus of the program."

This weekend's training also provided cadets with the opportunity to learn more than just field tactics.

"We use a lot of the Field Exercise Trainings to teach leadership and critical thinking and being able to adapt," Mitchell said. "All of the events also contribute to soldier skills such as weapon skills, the art of camouflage and land navigation. This is a great opportunity to have some fun training and let our freshman cadets try out ROTC to see if it's a good fit for them."



Cadet James Duram, left, addresses two UM Army ROTC cadets about the boarding procedure to two helicopters, which landed at the River Bowl fields on the edge of campus.



A helicopter pilot with the Montana Army National Guard oversees University of Montana Army ROTC cadets boarding a CH-47 Chinook helicopter at the River Bowl fields on Sept. 17. The cadets are on their way to Fort Harrison in Helena for a weekend-long Field Training Exercise.



A UM Army ROTC officer records some video footage of Cadets boarding a CH-47 Chinook helicopter headed for Fort Harrison in Helena.