

MONTANA KAIMIN

BIZZARE BALL

NEWS

REMEMBERING
ROBERT GREENE

ARTS

FEEL AGAIN WITH
THE GIGGLE BOX

SPORTS

MEET UM GOLF'S
TIKTOK STAR

A A LOOK INTO

COVID-19-ERA BASKETBALL AT
UM

Story by Jack Marshall
and John Orzechowski

Photos by Jack Marshall



Volume 123
Issue No. 16,
January 20, 2021

Kiosk

How this kiosk works



The Montana Kiosk is a community independent student newspaper. It is published by the University of Montana students and is not affiliated with the University of Montana. It is a student-run publication. The Kiosk is a community independent student newspaper. It is published by the University of Montana students and is not affiliated with the University of Montana. It is a student-run publication.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor: [Name]

Managing Editor: [Name]

Assistant Editor: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

NEWSROOM STAFF

Editor: [Name]

Managing Editor: [Name]

Assistant Editor: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

Editorial Board: [Name]

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



MontanaKiosk



@montanakiosk



@montanakiosk

For comments, corrections follow in the online version. All comments are subject to our editorial review. Call (406) 243-4576.

For advertising opportunities, contact advertising@montanakiosk.com or call (406) 243-4576.



ASUM Legal Services provides reduced-cost legal services to UM Students

Book an appointment today! asumlegal@umontana.edu



KAIMIN COMIC



Feature photo: The Giggle Box



The “So Fresh” room at The Giggle Box, Missoula’s first interactive art museum. The room is filled with plastic flamingos and bright colors, with a lemonade stand photo opportunity spot, along with chairs and benches. The Giggle Box, started by Tanya Lee and Logan Foret, has turned an old department store into an escape. Read more about the museum on page 14. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Kaimin Editorial

New Montana House bills discriminate against transgender people

On Monday, the first floor of the Capitol building in Helena was crowded, a line out the door of the courtroom as lobbyists testified against House Bills 112 and 113: Bills that discriminate against young gender-nonconforming people. Both bills are being introduced by Kalispell Republican John Fuller. HB112, the “Save Women’s Sports Act,” would barr transgender women from competing on women’s public school sports teams. The bill cites “inherent differences,” as reasoning, including chromosomal, hormonal and physiological. It also cites that sex classification in sports, “allows for the ‘full development of the talent and capacities of our Nation’s people,’” according to the draft of the bill.

Why do biological sex classifications in sports affect the integrity of the American people? Above all, why would it be the government’s place to decide this? Being transgender is not a choice. However, how an athlete wants to compete is.

The bill insists that allowing people not biologically born female to compete against cisgender women would be unfair, citing a study of female and male Olympic performances since 1983. Although the study found that people across the study’s performances improved overtime, “women’s performances at the high level will never match those of men.”

Public school sports are not comparable to Olympic level athletics. A transgender high schooler is not intending to dominate the field of the gender they identify as because of a supposed biological advantage. Instead, public school sports are another club or group or activity, a way for students to express who they are and develop character.

They compete on the team of the gender they identify as because they are that gender. It’s a simple matter of respect. The consistent dysphoria-inducing experience of being misgendered is one thing, but having your athletic achievements credited to someone who is not truly you is another, more painful experience.

The latter bill, HB 113, would bar health care providers from providing medications and medical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors, for so-called “Youth Health Protection.” It would also establish a civil penalty (a fine of “not less than \$500 or more than \$50,000,”) for health care providers providing the prohibited treatment.

The fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders defines gender dysphoria as “a medical diagnosis based on a persistent, marked difference between a patient’s expressed or experienced gender and the gender others would assign the patient causing clinically significant distress or impairment.” This quote is also cited in the bill.

Health care providers’ jobs in caring for their patients should not be hindered by government overreach. Denying minors who experience gender dysphoria potentially life-saving treatment for a medical condition that causes significant distress or impairment is wrong.

The bill’s name, “The Youth Health Protection Act,” flagrantly disregards any harm that would come from the bill’s implementation.

Nationally, as of 2018, LGBTQ+ youth are four times more likely, and questioning youth are three times more likely, to attempt suicide than their straight peers. Nearly half of young transgender people have seriously thought about talking their own lives. One quarter of transgender youth have made a suicide attempt.

This also perpetuates the belief gender that treatment can wait until gender non-conforming youth are of legal age, and that the government can override a legal guardian’s decision to help their child on their child’s behalf.

These radical bills serve only to legally allow discrimination and government overreach into the personal lives and decisions of Montana’s gender-nonconforming people. For a party that opposes government intervention and preaches the necessity of personal autonomy (second amendment rights, anyone?), these bills seem contradictory to the very core of Republican values.

So why, in the midst of a pandemic, is it the priority of Montana’s conservative right to strip away the autonomy and chance at equal opportunity for young gender nonconforming people?

Note: This piece was written by an all-cisgender editorial board.

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

SUDOKU Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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:

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

Copyright 2021 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Briefs: National Guard, vaccines and anti-trans legislation

MAZANA BOERBOOM
mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

Montana anti-transgender legislation

Two bills targeting transgender rights went to the Montana legislature on Monday. HB 112, entitled "Save Women's Sports Act," would require "public school athletics teams to be designated based on biological sex." The bill would require sports teams to be classified as male, female or co-ed and that teams designated for women be closed to people of the "male sex." The bill cites the "hormonal" and "chromosomal" differences in men and women and describes physiological advantages of men in sports including stronger bones, larger hearts and more testosterone as justification for the bill.

HB 113 is entitled "Youth Health Protection Act" and prohibits the medical treatment of gender dysphoria in minors. It would create a civil penalty for health care providers who issue such treatment. The bill's stated purpose is to protect minors "from any form of pressure to undergo irreversible medical procedures to change sex prior to attaining the age of majority."

The bill is being opposed by several health care organizations, including the Blue Cross Blue Shield, Montana Medical Association and others. More than 400 health care providers signed a letter opposing the bill, reporter Jackie Coffin said in a tweet.

The Kaimin is following this story and will update online as information becomes available.

Montana National Guard goes to D.C. for inauguration

Gov. Greg Gianforte sent 150 members of the Montana National Guard to Washington, D.C. to assist security for the inauguration of President Joe Biden on Wednesday. They were a part of around 25,000 members of the National Guard from around the country who went to the U.S. capital, just two weeks after a mob stormed the building for the first time since 1814. The National Guard has been at every presidential inauguration since George Washington, though the size of troops being sent to D.C. this year is unprecedented. There were 7,800 National Guard members at former President Donald Trump's inauguration,

according to the National Guard website. And the DCist reported that the highest number of National Guard members to occupy D.C. since the Civil War was after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and even then it was only 13,000.

Montana COVID-19 vaccine distribution moving forward

The COVID-19 vaccination process in Montana is moving forward as over 50,000 doses have already been distributed to health care workers across the state. All staff and residents of "long term care facilities," such as nursing homes, should be vaccinated by the end of the month.

While Missoula is still in stage 1A of vaccination (healthcare workers, emergency responders, law enforcement and residents and staff of long term care facilities), some parts of the state have moved on to the 1B stage (Native Americans and people of color at higher risk, people 70 and older and anyone age 16-69 with qualifying health conditions). Missoula County plans to

be finished with 1A by the end of January and it established a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Team last Thursday to help coordinate the effort and establish a mass vaccination site.

Law students hold conversation on race and privilege

The Montana Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is hosting "An Overdue Conversation on Race and Privilege" on Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. The conversation will be centered on the United States' legal systems and professions, according to the event description on Griz Hub. They intend to model the conversation after the "We're Not Really Strangers" playing cards and answer the question: "How can we do better?" The Montana BLSA is also holding a scholarship fundraiser for Black law students at the University of Montana Alexander Blewett III School of Law. As of Monday, it had raised \$485 of its \$10,000 goal. According to ABA statistics on the Enjuris website, Black law students made up less than 8% of incoming law students in 2019, and ethnic and racial minorities only made up 12% of law students in Montana.

Blotter: Stolen bikes, drunken nights and copper roofing

GRACE CARR
grace.carr@umontana.edu

Between Jan. 7 and Jan. 13, UMPD reported six crimes on and around campus. Disorderly conduct was the most common crime, second to bike theft from an outside location.

SAT: WHEN IN DOUBT, SHOUT

A resident assistant in Duniway Hall reported someone yelling and screaming outside the building early Saturday morning. Officers located an intoxicated student outside the east door of Miller Hall who had locked himself out of his residence hall. The student was referred for student conduct and a law violation for underage possession of alcohol by consumption. Drink responsibly — and legally — folks.

MON: COP THAT COPPER

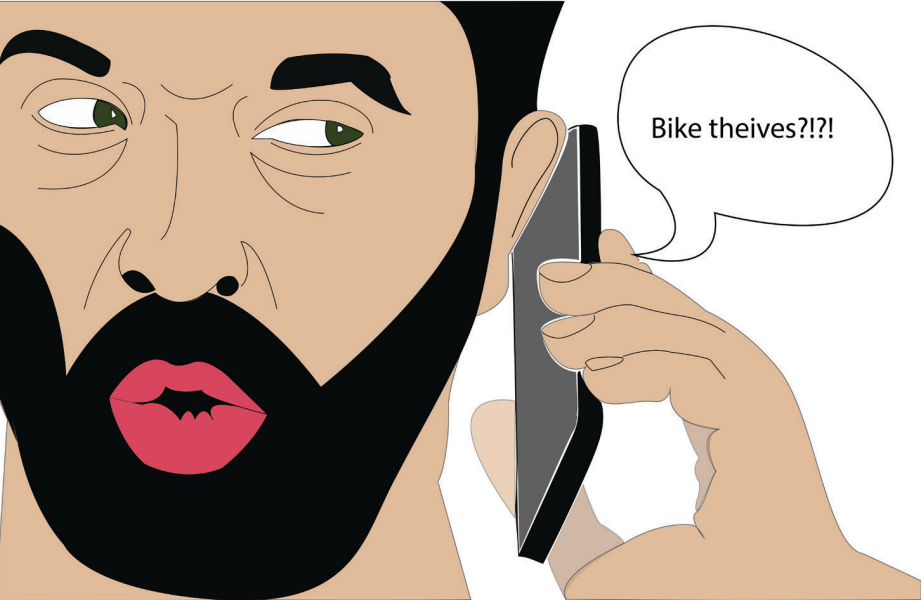
Some people sell their old clothes or become DoorDash drivers to make a little extra cash. Others are getting more creative. UMPD officers responded to an incident in the Fort Missoula area, where the copper roofing of two

WED: NO MASK, NO SERVICE

Gov. Greg Gianforte may be loosening the reins on mask mandates, but the University bus station sure isn't. Officers responded to a call at the University Village Transfer Station early Wednesday afternoon of an individual who refused to wear a mask on the bus. The unidentified suspect argued with the bus driver and left before the police could arrive. No further action has been taken.

WED: STOLEN BIKES

A bicycle was stolen sometime between Monday and Wednesday outside of Building G at the University Villages. This is not UMPD's first case of bike swiping this semester. A bike was taken outside of Pantzer Hall sometime during winter break. Once again, there are no suspects and no justice for the missing bicycles.



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
		23					24	25						
26	27			28		29		30			31	32	33	
34			35			36	37				38			
39					40						41			
42					43					44				
45				46				47	48			49		
				50				51	52		53			
54	55	56					57	58					59	60
61						62					63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

Copyright 2021 by The Puzzle Syndicate

- ACROSS
- 1 Got a perfect score
 - 5 Divvy up
 - 10 Judge's order
 - 14 Wild hog
 - 15 Cashless deal
 - 16 Put in a position
 - 17 "So what ___ is new?"
 - 18 "Crying" singer
 - 20 Info bank
 - 22 ___ of truth
 - 23 Sitter's headache
 - 24 Rider's handful
 - 26 "Gosh!"
 - 28 Night flier
 - 30 Consecrates with oil
 - 34 Frank or Joe of kids' books
 - 36 Spanish flower
 - 38 Word in a Paul Newman prison film title
 - 39 Leer at
 - 40 Kind of engineer
 - 41 Hathaway of Hollywood
 - 42 Like some chances
 - 43 Cameo shape
 - 44 Unescorted
 - 45 Not easily debunked
 - 47 Go on and on
 - 49 Safety device
 - 50 Alex Haley saga
 - 52 Not as much
 - 54 Ill will
 - 57 Setting for many shootouts
 - 61 Blue-green gem
 - 63 Pro's foe
 - 64 Extremist sect
- DOWN
- 1 Bead anagram
 - 2 Pepsi or RC
 - 3 Locale of a bygone wall
 - 4 Gloomy, in poetry
 - 5 Rock layers
 - 6 Major-leaguers
 - 7 Cake section
 - 8 Wedding words
 - 9 Airport building
 - 10 Playfully eccentric
 - 11 Greet the day
 - 12 Chipping choice
 - 13 Circus structure
 - 19 One-named rocker
 - 21 Pampered one?
 - 25 With little effort
- 26 Whoopi's Oscar film
- 27 Top scout
- 29 Hot-dish holder
- 31 Strictly business
- 32 Heavy metric weight
- 33 Frozen rain
- 35 Set boundaries
- 37 Egg cells
- 40 Garden of the Gods state
- 44 Parodied
- 46 Explosive sound
- 48 Narrow side streets
- 51 Trough diners
- 53 Mower's path
- 54 Rather suggestive
- 55 Bluish hue
- 56 ___ and void
- 58 Pitch-black
- 59 Hollywood Blvd sight
- 60 Bicycle part
- 62 Chest protector?

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Horoscope | ya hate to see it
2000s one-hit wonders

ALEX MILLER
michael6.miller@umontana.edu



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Oh, the 2000s. Many a music career was launched in this decadent era. But many also crashed and burned-hard. Bust out your iPod Shuffles and get ready for a trip down memory lane, because who doesn't love being compared to a poorly written song.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): You're quite the humanitarian, Aquarius. And what makes sad college-aged people feel happy? Dogs. "Who Let the Dogs Out?" You did. You let all those fluffy bastards out and we love you (and the Baha Men) for it.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Picture me this, my friend: The duality of your sign is perfectly represented by Shwayze's breezy tune "Corona and Lime." They go together like peanut butter and jelly. Just don't get Coronavirus and Lyme disease, those two DO NOT go together.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): You're the definition of "Party Like a Rockstar," Aries. You bust onto the scene with panache and soak up that spotlight like no other. Hopefully you won't end up like the Shop Boyz: Irrelevant.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You really are "Beautiful," Taurus. The sweet, dulcet and overplayed tones of James Blunt's nasally voice are somehow calming, like you.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): You're just so darn busy all the time, Gem. It's almost like you're... "Crazy," by Gnarlz Barkley. But like the fun kind of crazy. You know, the call-a-friend-in-the-middle-of-the-night-for-a-cigarette-because-you're-drunk crazy.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Hey Cancer, what are emotions like? Feeling all the time must be pretty draining, kind of like Daniel Powter's "Bad Day." Yeah, that seminal anthem about

all the feels on a rough day. That's you.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Your heart burns white hot with a blinding passion, Leo. Just like that deep passion that Fountains of Wayne have for "Stacey's Mom." But less creepy, and without fantasizing about your girlfriend's mom. You do you.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): Virgo, you're logical and practical all the dang time. And that's dope. You're *drum roll* "The Reason" that so many of us nutjobs stay sane. We could never forget all you've done for us, but we already forgot Hoobastank ever existed.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): College is about striking the perfect balance of binge drinking, eating and being late to class. What better way to personify this, Libra, than Asher Roth's classic "I Love College." You know you love going into debt to gain 30 pounds.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): I hate to do this to you, but it's happening. You, my devious friend, are "Butterfly" by the super good and definitely not cringe Crazy Town. The song is what a barbed wire tribal tattoo sounds like. Do with that as you will.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): Sometimes getting a little stoned helps to figure things out, Sag. You know this. That's why you're "Because I Got High," by Afroman. Just don't get all apathetic and not clean your room because you got high.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Cap, your ability to maneuver through the physical and emotional planes is impressive. So impressive that you would go "A Thousand Miles" for anyone, just like Vanessa Carlton would. That's your theme song, no take backs.

Scholar, mentor and friend: Robert Greene, 1975-2020

MEGHAN JONAS
Meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

Professor Robert Greene, acclaimed Russian scholar, longtime chair of the history department and a friend and mentor to many, died Dec. 18, 2020. He was 45. His death was caused by complications related to prostate cancer, which Greene battled while simultaneously teaching classes, starting research projects, writing letters of recommendation and ensuring that his mentees were prepared to enter a world without him.

Greene was born Jan. 16, 1975 in Sarasota, Florida to parents Phyllis (Saas) Greene and Kelly Greene. He graduated from the University of Rochester in 1997 with a B.A. in History and Russian Studies. He received his M.A. in History from the University of Michigan a year later.

Greene joined faculty at the University of Montana in 2006 after earning his doctorate in history from the University of Michigan. He taught popular courses on Soviet, Russia, and Eastern European history, and introductory courses like Western Civilization and Intro to Historical Methods.

Greene taught everyone from freshmen to graduate students to retirees at UM's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. His classes taught at the learning institute were consistently standing-room only, as lifelong students crowded together. Greene was awarded the Cox Family Award for Teaching Excellence by UM in 2012, highlighting his devotion to his students and his work.

The impact of Greene's devotion was highlighted when, shortly after his death, both the University of Montana's Department of History Facebook page posted a video in memory of Greene. The video, featuring photos of Greene while Steely Dan played, was a hit. It was soon flooded with comments from students and colleagues of Greene's, as they wrote about his intelligence and his humor. But most of all, they wrote how Greene cared about the people, especially students, who walked into his life. The department also held a memorial over Zoom Sunday, and more than 70 people attended.

Students close to Greene often spoke about him with a quiet religious fervor. Greene was a lifesaver, a career director, a mentor and a respected professor. He taught them about Eastern Europe, the power of propaganda or the works of Tolstoy. But most remember him best as a giver of sage advice both academic and personal.



University of Montana professor Robert Greene. Greene, acclaimed Russian scholar and longtime chair of the history department, died on Dec. 18, 2020 from complications related to prostate cancer. **CONTRIBUTED**

Greene, who was widely acclaimed for his written works detailing the Russian Orthodox devotion to saints and relics, might have been surprised to learn that his former students spoke of him as if he was their very own patron saint, leading them through the mountains and valleys of life.

"How does one even begin to approach this?" wrote Ronan Kennedy (UM class of 2019) in the first line of a memorial published on the College of Humanities' website. For students like Kennedy, Greene was a friend, a teacher, a mentor, and someone they saw on a near daily basis as they navigated through the world. Greene preserved a spirit of goodness in those around him by preserving it within himself, Kennedy wrote. The loss of Greene was not just the loss of a teacher, but the loss of a source of goodness

within the world.

"In a town as rife with good vibes as Missoula, Robert was skeptical and grouchy. It was beautiful," Patrick O'Connor, former graduate student and professor, said. "He gave life there dimension." Instead of forcing feigned positivity on those around him, Greene validated people's dread without letting them live there. He let them vent, helped them laugh and then showed them a way through the obstacles they were facing.

And when Greene gave a compliment or laughed at someone's joke, they knew they had earned it.

In the year and a half between Greene's diagnosis and his death, he continued to teach. At the end of fall semester, when his speech became slurred as a side effect of his new medication, he apologized to students

before cracking a joke and moving on.

Greene, despite living in a pandemic that left educators in a lurch, and despite his diagnosis, chose to dive further into his work and his role as a mentor.

According to Kennedy, Greene was writing letters of recommendations for former students up until the day he died. On his last phone call with him, Kennedy tells the story of Greene waking himself up twice, fighting through severe pain, to ensure Kennedy finished his graduate school applications. Greene, even at the very end of his life, never stopped putting others before himself.

Greene is survived by his sister, Ashley; his aunt, Joanne Saas; and his cat, Vera, who would make frequent appearances in Greene's classes.

Pharmacy students assist in COVID-19 efforts

GRACE CARR
grace.carr@umconnect.umt.edu

Third-year pharmacy student Kinsey Smith administered her first COVID-19 vaccine at the Curry Health Center Friday morning.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to be involved," Smith said. "It's important being able to be involved in this crucial [and] critical part of healthcare."

The 22-year-old joined The University of Montana's pharmacy program in 2018. Smith said immunization training began on her first day of school, and she had administered her first flu shot within two weeks of starting at Skaggs School of Pharmacy.

Now that UM is a distribution and administration hub for the Moderna vaccine, pharmacy students had to complete additional online training specific to the COVID-19 vaccines. According to Smith, there is an increased need for volunteers, giving students like her the chance to put their skills into action.

Smith said gaining hands-on experience during a modern public health crisis has better prepared her for a career and made her more adaptable.

"Everything is changing every day,"

Smith said. "It's important that we stay on top of information we have and adapt to patients' needs."

Smith also finds it comforting to know that other students at UM are trusting pharmacists-in-training like her to give the vaccine.

COVID-19 has infected over 500 students since fall semester started, and that number continues to grow as students return for the spring semester. As of Monday, there were nine new COVID-19 cases tied to UM and 370 active cases in Missoula County.

Yet as cases climb, Smith is thankful that she and other pharmacy students have been given the opportunity to be a part of the solution and show what pharmacists can do. She said she appreciates all the pharmacy department has done to train her and her fellow classmates in a safe and effective manner.

This is Smith's last semester before her rotations begin in May. Rotations allow students like Smith to work in community pharmacy practice and hospital pharmacies, uniting classroom learning with day-to-day clinical practice.

"There's a sense of reward that all the hard work we put in is paying off," Smith said. "It feels like it's finally time to spread our wings."



University of Montana third-year pharmacy student Kinsey Smith smiles for a portrait in front of University Hall. Smith administered her first COVID-19 vaccine with the Curry Health Center on Jan. 15, 2020. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

MonTEC, UM receive grant funding for Women's Business Center

ALICIA MCALPINE
alicia.mcalpine@umontana.edu

Montana Technology Enterprise Center (MonTEC) and the University of Montana have received grant funding to create a space for female small-business owners to network, grow and improve the financial standing of their businesses.

Thanks to a Small Business Administration grant of over \$1 million over five years, the new Women's Business Center will be established in Missoula, making it the second in the state after Bozeman. The Missoula center will partner with advisers in Great Falls and Fort Belknap, who will help provide additional outreach in their respective communities.

The grant was a collaborative effort, led by the UM Director of Women's Entrepreneurship and Leadership Morgan Slemberger, in partnership with Jason Nitsche and Tonya Plummer. Americorps VISTA Mary Sullivan,

who helped write the grant, said there were also many matching donors and supporters. These included the City of Missoula, Clearwater Credit Union, and several who provided letters of support, from Sen. John Tester to the cities of Shelby, Bozeman and others.

Sullivan said the center would provide such services as advising on business models, financing and budgeting classes, and advice on marketing principles and canvassing models, adding that they would also be asking specifically what people need. She also said most of the services would be free or low-cost, to help ease the burden on entrepreneurs.

"Money is very tight when you're trying to start something, or you're playing around with an idea," she said.

In the case of Fort Belknap, executive director of Montana Native Growth Fund Tonya Plummer says that outreach to Native entrepreneurs looks different than to non-Natives, due to the limited resources on reservations and a commu-

nity-minded culture.

"A lot of what an Indigenous entrepreneur will want to do is give back to their community, so very often we approach things with a different mindset," Plummer said. "Being able to provide a new means of economy in tribal society, a new means of wealth creation, is huge."

In Great Falls, Jason Nitsche directs the regional Small Business Development Center and is Vice President of the Great Falls Development Authority. He said he thinks the new center will be a great asset to the state, tripling the impact of the Bozeman location. And that's not his only reason for supporting the project.

"The thing that excites me most about being able to stand up a new women's business center and create more resources for female entrepreneurs in the state of Montana is because I hope, at some point when my daughter is old enough, she'll have opportunities here," Nitsche said. "So she doesn't leave me when I'm old," he laughed.

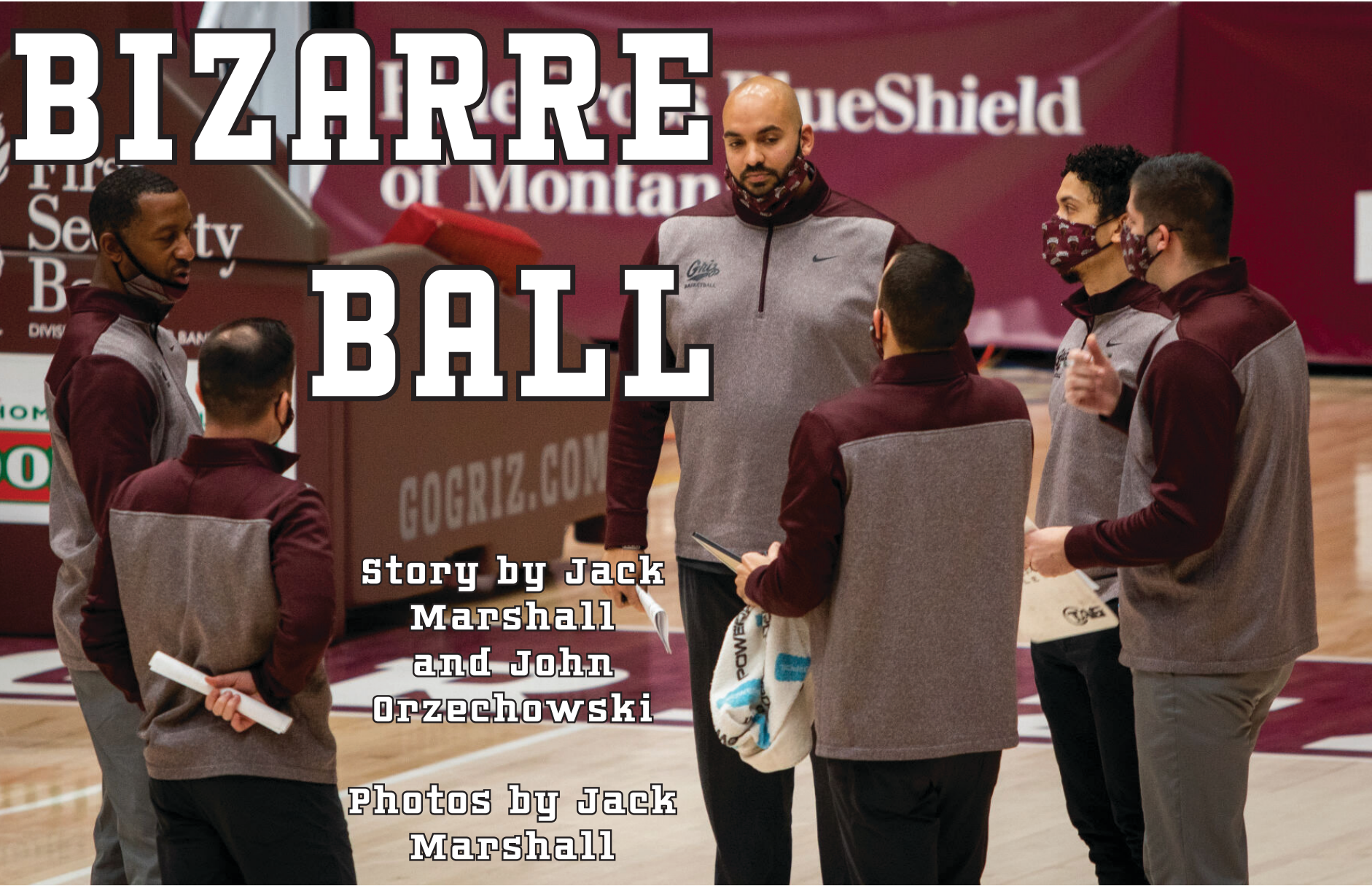
JOURNALISM JOB
Modern Farmer



Modern Farmer seeks a reporter for its publication that aims to educate consumers about the food on their plates. Journalism degree required. Starting salary \$50-55k for a full-time, remote position.

Study journalism and get a great job. Come see us in DAH 201 or umt.edu/journalism

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



A look into COVID-19-era Basketball at UM

Walking through the doors of the Adams Center feels like walking through a ghost town. Posters line the walls—posters of players and teams, yes, but also COVID-19 protocols and mask reminders. The parking lot might as well have a tumbleweed rolling through it—a Saturday afternoon gameday scene that Griz Nation would have deemed unimaginable only a year ago.

“Any symptoms in the last 48 hours?” the security officials at the front table ask.

Then, a temperature check. If passed, the security monitor hands out a blue wristband, similar to the ones at waterparks or

concerts, with “MONTANA” emblazoned in black print.

These wristbands? The passes? They’re essential for entrance. Just a UM student ID won’t cut it this year.

Last semester, all fall sports were postponed because of COVID-19, beginning with the fan favorite (and most lucrative) football, until this spring. Now, UM Athletics has a unique opportunity to work overtime creating an accelerated basketball season: back-to-back games, scheduling knowing there could be cancellations at any moment and risking team-wide quarantines. All of this while pushing for a Big Sky Conference tournament as similar to any other season as possible.

This Saturday was game day, and cardboard cutouts watched as a skeleton crew of fans, mainly family members of players, enjoyed some basketball socially distanced

in the stands. No more than 20 fans were present, less than 1% of a normal crowd at Dahlberg Arena.

The men’s team was playing Whitworth, a Division III school, on an early afternoon in January. It was easy to hear echoes in the deafeningly-silent arena. It was even easier to remember an alternate reality, of a time not so long ago when a crowd of fans roared in support. Only squeaking sneakers, basketball dribbles, player conversation and loudspeaker music disrupted the quiet venue.

There is no courtside seating for fans; they must sit in the upper levels of the bleachers. Masks are required for everyone in the arena except for the players on the court and the referees. Each seat on the bench is six feet apart from the others.

In the NCAA’s “Core of Principle of Resocialization of Collegiate Basketball,”

its COVID-19 plan, a testing plan where players and staff are tested three times a week during the season is suggested. So far, the protocol seems to be working. Montana is one of only 10 Division I men’s basketball teams that hasn’t canceled a game.

While a lot of work has been put in by UM to make sure no season cancellations happen, UM head coach Travis DeCuire still isn’t ruling out luck playing a role in the seasons success.

“It’s a little bit of everything,” DeCuire said. “There is a lot of safety, we obviously wear masks and we travel in certain ways. But there’s some luck because there’s two teams that can cancel a game at the end of the day right? It only takes one to have it canceled.”

Where there once was the crowd noise, this Saturday heard only the murmuring of

University of Montana game schedule

Men’s Basketball

11/28	at Southern California	Played
12/3	at Southern Utah	Played
12/5	at Southern Utah	Played
12/8	at Georgia	Played
12/16	vs Yellowstone Christian College	Played
12/18	at Washington	Played
12/22	vs Dickinson State	Played
1/2	at Arizona	Played
1/4	vs Northern Colorado	Played
1/9	vs Northern Colorado	Played
1/16	vs Whitworth	Played
1/14	vs Northern Arizona	Played

Women’s Basketball

11/25	at Utah State	Played
12/3	vs Southern Utah	Canceled
12/5	vs Southern Utah	Canceled
12/7	vs North Dakota	Played
12/13	at Gonzaga	Played
12/15	at Seattle	Played
12/21	vs Utah Valley	Canceled
1/1	at Northern Colorado	Played
1/3	at Northern Colorado	Played
1/9	vs Whitworth	Canceled
1/10	vs College of Idaho	Played
1/14	at Northern Arizona	Played

the bench, team members discussing plays and joking in huddles.

“That was fun,” a Whitworth player said during a timeout after his team went on a scoring run against the Griz.

“Apparently we’re not allowed to yell ‘travel,’” a Whitworth coach told his players in a different huddle.

Had there been fans in the arena, these conversations may have stayed private. Technical fouls are a lot easier to receive in the quiet arena.

“I kind of said some things [last game]

that were a lot louder than expected,” said UM guard Cameron Parker, who received a technical foul in UM’s home game against Northern Colorado. “We definitely have to watch what we say.”

From time to time, coaches or players will shout expletives. Already once this season, a Northern Colorado coach received a language-use warning midgame from the referees.

Foul language isn’t the only result of a silent Dahlberg.

Crowd noise has historically been one



Cardboard cutouts of former University of Montana softball players sit in the stands of Dahlberg Arena on Jan. 9. Cutouts of many different athletes from across Griz Athletics take the place of fans in the arena.

of Montana’s biggest advantages in the Big Sky Conference. In 2018-19, the last time the numbers were released, the Griz ranked second in the conference for attendance.

And the noise can play to UM’s advantage. In the last two seasons UM played with a crowd, the team won 12 home games and lost three in each season. But this season, the Griz have won two of six home games.

More and more cardboard cutouts of athletes have been added to the gym, including the entire Griz softball team, which was added before a recent Lady Griz game.

When the Griz go to the free throw line, the cutouts remain as silent as the rest of the gym. No sneakers squeak on the gym floor and no chants emanated from the bench.

Every brick off the rim rings out like a gunshot echoing through the stands. Whistles seem more shrill than normal.

In the south wall stands Saturday, there were 15 or so people—family members and partners rocking maroon and gray and masks. If they spread throughout the arena, each party could probably have their own seating section to themselves.

The coaching staff have been adapting to the COVID-19 changes along with their teams. Though, not all the changes are unwelcome.

Both sets of coaches now enjoy wearing leisure wear instead of the usual formal suits and loafers of a season before. This season, they’re sticking with sweatpants and sneakers.

UM and Whitworth had just finished warming up, and it was time for the national anthem. A band recording with no vocals echoed throughout Dahlberg.

Then, a hype video—set in a somehow more-empty Dahlberg than this one—played on the jumbotron. Claps from the bench accompanied starting lineups.

As both teams huddled up before tip-off and the TV broadcasts went to commercial break, UM employees walked onto the court and wiped down the padding on the bottom of the basketball hoops.

When the game started, all of the—admittedly few—eyes in the arena focused on the court. UM’s bench began its chants of “DE-FENCE, DE-FENCE, DE-FENCE.” The Griz are now in charge of cheering for



Fans in the University of Montana student section show support for the Griz sporting signs of the players' heads during a game against Eastern Washington University in Dahlberg Arena on Feb. 6, 2020.
DANIEL DUENSING| MONTANA KAIMIN

themselves, since the UM spirit squad is no longer allowed at games.

“I kind of said some things [last game] that were a lot louder than expected. We definitely have to watch what we say.”
 -Cameron Parker

On this Saturday afternoon, the bench could be heard loud and clear. Each bench took up around a third of the

west sideline; the middle third dedicated to the scorer's table, which is surrounded by a glass wall on every side except the back. Every stoppage of play was followed by three seconds of feet shuffling on hardwood for everyone to hear. Official timeouts took the 10 players who were currently on the floor to a circle of six chairs in the middle of the floor 10 feet away from the socially distanced bench where the coach can be indistinctly heard drawing up plays. The second the mini huddle broke, cleaners ran over with rags and sanitizer and wiped down all six chairs. All of the water cups used during the timeout are thrown away, no refills. At halftime, while TV and radio broadcasts are recapping the first period, a

halftime show isn't happening in Dahlberg Arena. No cheerleaders, no dance team and definitely not UM's favorite backflipping mascot Monte. The few spectators enjoy only the (sometimes wildly inconsistent) music playing over the loudspeaker for entertainment. When the music stops and the second half begins in the early afternoon quiet, the arena noise continues to amplify the dueling teams. The fact that the game is even being played on an early Saturday afternoon is reason for pause. Last season, 14 of UM's 15 home games tipped off at 6 p.m. or later, to help accommodate fans who worked during the weekday. This season, all five of UM's home games

have started before 6 p.m. One of these early tipoffs, a men's game against Northern Colorado on Jan. 2, even began at 9 a.m. It was the earliest game start in school history. “Felt like practice,” said DeCuire after the early game. UM senior guard Micheal Steadman said the morning game felt like one of the club basketball tournaments he attended in high school. The early games are part of the coronavirus strategy. In the NCAA's COVID-19 testing plan, teams are able to decide whether they will provide testing and quarantine options for visiting teams. Most of the Big Sky Conference teams, including UM, have decided to start games early and allow for the visiting team to return home and test there. DeCuire mentioned in a



Players from the University of Whitworth talk during a timeout in a game at the University of Montana on Jan. 9. The University of Montana won the game 84-67.

press conference that it just isn't feasible to create a plan for a visiting player who has tested positive. The fact that UM is playing a Division III team like Whitworth mid-way through the season is also abnormal. This season, nearly half of UM's non-conference games are scheduled against lower division opponents, compared to last season, where only one-fifth of the non-conference games saw lower division teams. Montana is using this lower division team to gain important practice. Normally, the Griz would've had a Maroon and Silver scrimmage as well as 11 other games before it started conference play. This season, the Griz played just one game before conference play started. The practice is important for the Griz

teams. The Lady Griz were scheduled to play Whitworth the same day as the men, but Whitworth canceled, becoming the fourth game this season the Lady Griz had to miss. If a team doesn't play 13 games in the 2020-21 season, it won't be eligible to play in the NCAA tournament, so the Lady Griz scheduled to play a different non-Division I team the day after. Not only do these games allow the Griz teams to meet their mandatory minimum playing time, they help boost the record of Montana in the event the teams make the NCAA tournament. UM's men's team has won six games this year, but without these lower division matchups it would only have three wins on record. If the Griz win the Big Sky Conference Tournament with a

bad regular season record, it is likely they would have to play a top ranked team in the NCAA tournament. When Saturday's game ended in a 84-67 victory for the Griz, Whitworth's coach congratulated his players, audible in the quiet. “Awesome job,” he said. “We just got so much better.” Both teams shuffled off the court in relative silence and the cleaning process began again. A UM Athletics employee sanitized the court with a backpack canister and a spray gun, like a pest control officer preparing to wipe out a wasp nest. Normal post-games at UM include masses of children playing basketball on the court, but this Saturday the only basketball players were a few Whitworth team mem-

bers who emerged from the locker room. “Good game,” one of UM's custodian said to the players. DeCuire emerged from the locker room and began a post-game interview with UM's radio announcer. Inside the locker room, a few UM players hopped onto a Zoom call for some post-game questions with the media. When both interviews finished up, DeCuire headed back to the locker room to join the Zoom call. After answering a few more questions, DeCuire left the Zoom. The media followed, leaving only one custodian in the arena, dragging a mop around by his waist.

Local band smoochie hits us where it hurts on ‘XOXO’

MEGHAN JONAS
Meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

Local musicians Adam Holden and Quint Bishop have joined forces to create smoochie, a new sad-boi indie duo. You may be thinking, why do we need another sad-boi indie duo? I can go to any college dorm and find a hundred men waxing poetic about the human experience. And in a scene oversaturated with indie bullshit I already gave my heart to, why would a new listener tune in to more? But “XOXO,” released in the bleakness of a sunless winter and constant crisis, gives listeners heartwrenching catharsis that reminds us of what it’s truly like to be alive. But like, in a cool way.

This cozy little EP starts off with growing silence that eventually merges into a celebration of understated vocals, simple guitar and floating synth. While Holden sings about unrequited love and the desperate passing of time, Bishop holds our attention with production that sounds so far from homemade, we have a hard time fully grasping that it was made in Missoula. While the world is crumbling around us, sometimes it’s just nice to listen to a love song. Especially when that love song has layers of synth, bird calls and the familiarity of what it is to love something you don’t truly have. Maybe it’s the bullshit of 2020 and the continuing bullshit of 2021, or maybe we’re growing soft in our old age,

but this first track, “apart,” hits us where it hurts without spitting in our eye. “honey honey” continues on this slightly melancholy ride of love, but this time with drums and a rhythm we subconsciously find ourselves swaying with. The energy on this track is just slightly higher with a dash more *spice.* This is the song you wished that dude with a guitar wrote about you freshman year (you know, instead of the cringey one). It’s a little bit depressing, but it’s a bop regardless. “prairie” grabs our attention with samples that sound like the pre-recorded messages at an airport or train station. These samples give listeners an impression of movement and unfamiliarity. But when smoochie hits us with some soft guitar, it suddenly feels familiar. Bishop’s production continues to impress as he creates layers of depth, each different from the next. Holden’s lyrics about driving past someone’s house to see if he’s literally and figuratively out of time feels personal without revealing too much. The very end of the track sounds like Cinderella’s clock striking midnight. “love lost” is different from the rest. Simple and understated guitar make this song play like a ripped page from someone’s diary. Piano, reminiscent of the members of smoochie’s folk days, gives sad comfort. “love lost” is where smoochie finally accepts that the ones they loved are no longer theirs. It’s painful and healing,



smoochie, comprised of Adam Holden, left, and Quint Bishop, right, sit in their Missoula living room on Jan. 16, 2021. The band released their new EP, “XOXO” on Dec. 29, 2020. They recorded the EP in their living room and mixed and mastered the songs themselves. “There was a fair amount of trial and error. Mainly just me and Adam seeing what would work. It was really a learning project scratching itches of what we’ve wanted to do,” Bishop said. **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

and highlights the peace that comes with acceptance. “XOXO” sets itself apart from other sad-boi indie records by not trying to impress us, but impressing us anyway. This EP is

a labor of love, not a desperate attempt to gain recognition or to convince others to love them. It’s beautiful and sad and made all the better by its unassuming honesty.

‘Pieces of a Woman’ is not for the faint of heart

CLARISE LARSON
clarise.larson@umontana.edu

My Thursday night started with my roommates and I sitting in the living room ready to watch the new Netflix hit, “Pieces of a Woman.” White Claws in hand, we did not know what to expect, except for a friend’s warning that we might get our shit rocked. After watching the movie: Indeed, my shit was rocked. Hell, my shit was absolutely obliterated. To say that I enjoyed this movie would be an absolute lie. I had to stop the film more times than I can count because I felt physically ill. But this movie is like a fine wine: It usually doesn’t taste great, but I

respect it knowing the time and effort it took to create it overrides my stupid and undeveloped tastebuds. The movie, directed by Kornél Mundruczó, starts with a quick introduction to the two main characters of the film, partners Martha (Vanessa Kirby) and Sean (Shia LeBeouf). Martha is super pregnant, and ready to pop. Once the film explains the circumstances, the next 24 minutes follows the couple in a hectic and scary home birth. The actors did it in one take. The rest is a blur, which could have been Mundruczó’s intent. It follows the aftermath of a home birth gone wrong, and a trial that might not be the solution they think it is. Now, I refuse to throw my opinion on the story itself, because it would be too

easy to point out the flaws of a movie that thrives on them. Let me explain. This movie follows a plethora of emotions and traumas that absolutely have been felt by many people at some point in time. However, no trauma follows one linear line. I can’t judge what the characters did or acted like. PTSD and trauma can manipulate even the strongest of people, as beautifully portrayed in the film. The couple’s years of building and growth of love shatter within minutes. Sean loses his humor and sobriety. Martha turns from a nervous and excited woman into a person longing for an alternative to the life she is now living in. This isn’t “The Matrix.” You’re watching a snapshot of painfully normal events that

happen to real people. Yet, my head was astronomically more bent from Kirby’s incredible acting than Keanu Reeves could ever do (no offense, hot stuff). This movie is not entertainment, it is an experience; it is a trigger and it is a lesson. “Pieces of a Woman” is not for the faint-hearted, it is real life. Or as real as film allows. It hurts you like life hurts you, but that is kind of the beauty of it. With every bone in my body I recommend this movie. Though after watching it, I hurt like I broke some.

The breach of the U.S. Capitol was white supremacy in action

JORDYNN PAZ
jordynn.paz@umontana.edu

Editor’s Note: Jordynn Paz is UM’s program coordinator for American Indian Student Services and a recent UM graduate. While in school, Paz wrote opinion columns for the Montana Kaimin regarding Native issues in Montana and beyond.

In years to come, when we discuss the insurrection and breach of the U.S. Capitol, we must remember to include the events of Black Lives Matter and Standing Rock. The differences between these events are the latest and greatest of America’s story, told against a backdrop of genocide, slavery, racism, classism, separation and inequality. You cannot tell the truth of the United States without these things. You most certainly cannot discuss the occupation of the Capitol without also talking about how it was allowed to happen, thanks to our country’s commitment to white supremacy. Water cannons and rubber bullets, sub-zero temperatures and the National Guard, that’s what met the camps in Cannonball, North Dakota, where Indigenous people led the world in a movement to protect clean drinking water. The Lakota and Dakota people of the Standing Rock Sioux community rose up and challenged the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline that ran right through their traditional lands, and had the potential to spill oil into the drinking water of the reservation (it did end up leaking nearly 400,000 gallons of crude oil in North Dakota in 2019). Clean drinking water is a human right, one that supersedes a colonial government that would rather see it exploited for profit. Black Lives Matter rose up to protect innocent Black people who are stolen from us by this colonial system. Politicians, media outlets and many other Americans repeatedly attempted to diminish BLM, most recently seen in the global protests for George Floyd in June 2020, through a lens of violence, anti-Blackness and bullshit like “All Lives Matter.” Black people have the right to live, period.



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Both these movements highlight the ways Black and brown people are regarded as violent enough for the National Guard, when we are simply asking for our humanity to be acknowledged. While others, who feel their own lives are being imposed upon through masks, are allowed to storm the pinnacle of modern democracy with impunity. Our country is built on white supremacy. Our very system was created solely by white men who wanted to preserve their own interests—and interests of those like them—not that of all people. I don’t want to hear that it doesn’t matter anymore, that “no one alive ever owned slaves,” because we still use every one of those founding documents written in whiteness 400 years ago today. Those who stormed the Capitol so

easily did so to “be heard,” to stop a just election process and to protect their interests as white citizens. When I say that, I don’t mean protecting their assets and their families/people. They did so to protect their whiteness, which to them is under attack because they are being asked to share the privileges they’ve always had. I won’t waste my word count trying to think about where they’re coming from, and if you expect me to, unfortunately you’ve come to the wrong column. Please do not ask me to see from their perspective because as we’ve seen time and time again, be it over masks, Black lives, children in cages or Indigenous land, they will not try and see from mine. The thing I find most frustrating about being a Native person, of being a brown person in America, is that me and my people did not ask to be part of

this system. This was not something we chose for ourselves. This was forced on us. Now it is up to us to change it, it falls on our shoulders to fix. That, to me, is the greatest injustice of all. As important as it is to declare yourself against white supremacy, white allies, I’m asking you to take it a step further. Think about your whiteness today. Think about it every day. Think about the world you live in due to your whiteness. Let it make you uncomfortable, let it make you uneasy. Because if it does, you recognize the problem. Now do something about it.

The Giggle Box is the cure for pandemic blues

MEGHAN JONAS
Meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

Montana’s first interactive art museum, The Giggle Box, has turned an old department store into an escape. While living in the midst of a pandemic and global crisis, it’s a spot of joy in an otherwise chaotic world.

In a touchless society, The Giggle Box, started by Tanya Lee and Logan Foret, captures every sense. “The Granny Room,” adorned with thrifted decor one may find at an estate sale, is decked out with levers, knobs, handles and a plethora of other moving pieces. Visitors are encouraged to touch the objects in most rooms as they search for hidden scavenger hunt items.

Some of these hidden items are obvious, like a banana taped to a wall or a clown painting hidden behind a mirror. Others are harder to find, meaning visitors can come back multiple times without monotony or boredom.

The Giggle Box opened in March 2020, and was only able to stay open four days due to COVID-19. They reopened in August, two months after the rest of the mall. Because The Giggle Box is the only museum of its kind in Montana, there were no state guidelines to reopen, Foret said. This caused the pair to evaluate how they could provide a space for their community while also keeping everyone safe. So far, they’ve succeeded.

Lee and Foret originally intended for The Giggle Box to have a limited run, lasting about six months. Their current plans are to close this March, but Foret said, “We’ll be here as long as there’s a need for us.”

Lee and Foret estimate that they have created 80% of the art in the museum. The space used to be a Herberger’s, meaning each room had to be built from the ground up. The only evidence it used to be a department store is an old dressing room, decked out with black light and neon paint.

The Giggle Box’s rooms, bright and colorful, come as a welcome relief from gloomy Missoula winters. In a time where seasonal depression hits hardest, The Giggle Box makes visitors feel like it’s summertime. One room, adorned with pink plastic flamingos, has been a recent hit as the sun outside waits to make an appearance.

For people on the autism spectrum, The Giggle Box has provided an interactive, low pressure environment where they are able to fully enjoy themselves.



Founders of The Giggle Box, Logan Foret, left, and Tanya Lee, right, sit in the “This is Bananas” room at Missoula’s first immersive, interactive art museum on Jan. 16, 2021. The Giggle Box opened in March 2020, and was only able to stay open for four days due to COVID-19. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

The small group size, which caps at six people, means visitors can go through the museum without worrying about crowds or noise levels. In the next few months, The Giggle Box team even plans on providing noise-cancelling headphones for people who may experience sensory overload, complete with pandemic-approved plastic covers.

Lee and Foret estimate that 50% of their visitors are on the autism spectrum. The team now plans on organizing mixers for families with children with autism after it was suggested by a parent going through the museum with their child.

The Giggle Box is safe and accessible, Foret said, and provides an experience people may not be comfortable experiencing otherwise. Especially as people practice so-

cial distancing and try to avoid cabin fever.

The guest rooms are some of their favorites. “The Trinket Wall,” created by local artist and KBGA DJ Coach Shane, is filled with items some may see as clutter. But the closer one looks, the more depth they can see. They may see a stack of old love letters, a pile of dried orange peels, chains or Polaroids. Each guest piece is a private look into an artist’s psyche.

One of the most impressive pieces of The Giggle Box is the use of technology. Before visitors even enter the museum, a TV is set up outside where people can put themselves into a Van Gogh painting or shoot lightning from their hands. There’s no delay, so people can see their outline in fantastical environments in real time.

“Dearly Beloved,” a Prince-inspired

corner, features a mural of a woman with an afro with painted mixing bowls placed carefully on top. Two metal rods extend from the floor on either side. Visitors place their hands on the rods, touch the metal bowls, and are greeted with samples from Prince songs. Touching one may produce the guitar riff from “When Doves Cry,” and another may feature the artist’s iconic vocals.

The pandemic may have halted Lee and Foret’s plans, but it did not wreck them. If anything, they said, it forced them to be more creative. The Giggle Box has become a welcome respite for those looking to escape the outside world, even if it’s only for an hour.

“The part of the brain that creates stress is also the part we use to create,” Lee said. “You can’t be stressed and create.”

Montana overpowered by Northern Arizona comeback, split series

GRIFFEN SMITH
griffen.smith@umontana.edu

Though the Montana men’s basketball team led for a majority of the game, a strong comeback effort by Northern Arizona University took down the Grizzlies 62-58 in Missoula on Jan. 16. Montana, who looked to win its first back-to-back Big Sky Conference game, dropped to 2-4 in conference play.

“It’s kind of been the tale of two halves for us here,” UM Head Coach Travis DeCuire said after the game. “Down for stretches, we played very good ball on both sides of the ball. We defended, we rebounded, we held them to one shot,” he said. “And we kind of lost that.”

Montana previously played the Lumberjacks on Thursday, Jan. 14, as a part of the new Big Sky Conference schedule, where teams play two-game series at one location. That first game started with a 17-0 Montana run, which set the tone for a 67-56 win.

In Saturday’s game, both teams started slow. Montana in particular made only three of its first 12 shot attempts.

After the teams tied it up at eight points each, the Griz turned on the gas, scoring 11 unanswered points in three minutes, highlighted by a Camperon Parker dish to Brandon Whitney behind the right arc for a 3-pointer. Whitney, a freshman guard, lit up the first half with 12 points, and finished with a game-leading 22 points.

As a team, the Griz made eight 3-pointers, matching the eight 3-pointers it made in its first game against NAU.

The Lumberjacks made five of their own 3-pointers, three of them from forward Nick Mains. Mains finished the game with 17 points and four rebounds.

Montana led by as much as 17 in the first half, thanks to a play where freshman guard Robby Beasley III scored off of a drive while getting fouled. Beasley finished the game with eight points.

At the end of the first half, Montana upped its shooting percentage to 53 percent, and led 34-19.

Northern Arizona did not give in to the Griz, however. After some back and forth at the start of the second half, the Lumberjacks scored 12 points to UM’s two, and cut the lead to just one point with 11:36 left in the game.

Montana responded to the pressure, starting with a John Vazquez 3-pointer to restore t a four point Griz lead. However, UM struggled to make shots in the closing minutes, not making a single basket in the last five attempts.

“At about that eight, nine minute mark, every small rebound, every extra pass and taking care of the ball, it’s highlighted a lot more than in the first half,” DeCuire said. “We were making a couple of mistakes here and there, maybe you didn’t take the shot that you really wanted or get a rebound when we should have.”

On the other side, Northern Arizona finished with a run of 12 unanswered points, powered by a 3-pointer from Mains with 2:57 to go. This shot gave NAU a 59-58 lead, its first since going up 8-6 in the first four minutes of the game.

Montana had one last opportunity to win, a pick and roll with Michael Steadman, but his shot swirled around the rim before Northern Arizona scooped up the rebound. From there the Griz were reduced to attempting some desperation shots, but none fell, and the team



University of Montana Associate Head Coach Chris Cobb, left, and Head Coach Travis DeCuire, right, sit together Thursday, March 5, 2020, during a game against Northern Colorado. The green ribbons on their sports jackets were for mental health awareness. **LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN**

lost by four points.

The loss ended a weeks-long home stretch for Montana, which will travel next to Sacramento State Jan. 21 and 24.

The Griz have won six games and lost seven.

Opinion: A Brawl of the Wild should be in the two game football season

JACK MARSHALL
jack.marshall@umontana.edu

On Jan. 15 UM and Montana State both announced they would be opting out of the Big Sky Conference spring football schedule and instead play a two-game schedule still to be announced. They had better be playing each other.

The last time we got a Griz/Cat, Cat / Griz, Brawl of the Wild or whatever you want to call it, was over 13 months ago. When the 2020 fall season was canceled, it sucked. It sucked even more to watch other college football teams play.

This spring was supposed to bring back this highly anticipated football matchup when the Big Sky originally scheduled a March 27 game. Instead, Montana football

fans are left hoping one of the two spring games will be the rivalry game.

If UM and MSU agree to play a pay-per-view game, they will simply make bank. There have to be crazy football fans in Montana who would sell their car to watch this matchup. If the game is pay-per-view, both schools won’t have to worry about fans in the stadium either.

If the players from both teams were told to quarantine for two weeks so they could play the rivals, it’s fairly likely they would. So many of these players grew up wanting to play in this game, so why take it away when it is possible to still have it?

Montana fans are tired of hearing Montana State fans crow “We’re back-to-back-to-back-to-back state champions.” Montana State fans want to add another “back” to that statement.

For the sake of these fans, the players and anyone else associated with Montana football, the teams should make a pay-per-view Brawl of the Wild happen this spring.

Oh, and the second of the two games played could literally be against any team. Schedule Montana Tech and only play back-up players. This would help young players and other reserves gain crucial experience with lower at stakes.

The University of Montana Athletic Director Kent Haslam said that “A reduced number of games in the spring will give our team a greater chance of success in the fall of 2021.”

A game against a non-Division I opponent (or just a really bad Division I opponent) would certainly help UM achieve this goal.



JACK MARSHALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

From goose to ghost: How a UM golfer went viral on TikTok

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

During winter break in Butte, Montana, UM sophomore and Griz golf team member Tricia Joyce decided to film a video of herself dancing in her backyard, like she had so many times before. She uploaded the video—a ghost-like version of herself dancing around a frozen version of herself—to TikTok.

If you've been on the app at all in the past month, you've seen it. "I can go on and on for days yeah, I do the most," belts out artist Championxii in the song Joyce used, called "BOO!" Right as the beat drops in the song, Ghost Joyce and Dancing Joyce combine. "I'm a shooter, I might shoot ya'," the song continues as the instrumental part of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" plays in the background.

Thanks to perfect execution and one-of-a-kind dance moves from Joyce, the video was an instant hit on her TikTok account, where she goes by the name "Goosey J."

"It had 20,000 likes, which it was a lot for me," Joyce said. "I set a timer for one minute and didn't look at my phone. I came back and it had 25,000."

Joyce called her mom to celebrate the success of the video, which now has over 42.3 million views and over 7.3 million likes.

"It was crazy, I still can't really comprehend it," she said.

If every single person in California viewed one of Joyce's videos, it still wouldn't have as many views as that one. The success of the video also helped her gain over 371,000 followers on her account, where she primarily posts videos of herself dancing.

"So clean," commented one TikTok user on Joyce's video. "Everyone gonna be doing this tomorrow," added TikTok user Bobby Coleman, who has over 1 million followers on the app.

Coleman was right. Since then hundreds of users have recreated the dance Joyce created, tagging the videos #ImAGhost. Videos under the #ImAGhost label got a combined 6.3 billion views, and they were at one point the most trending videos on TikTok, which has 800 million users. Joyce's video is the top video on the #ImAGhost hashtag.

Joyce began dancing when she was in elementary school at the dance studio right down the road from her house in Butte. When she hit fourth grade, she stopped dancing and began golfing, because there was a golf course right by her house, too.

While she attended Butte Central High School, she played golf as well as basketball and tennis. In her senior year, she won every



University of Montana sophomore Tricia Joyce sits inside the Ranch Club indoor facility. Joyce is on the women's golf team and created a TikTok that went viral and received over 42.3 million views. **EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN**

single golf tournament she entered, including the Montana Class A State Tournament.

"It was one of my biggest goals in high school to be able to do that," Joyce said regarding her state championship.

After her successful high school campaign, Joyce chose to commit to the University of Montana to play golf.

In her freshman year at UM, she was named All-Academic Big Sky Conference. She also helped UM finish first at the Pat Lesser Harbottle Invitational in the fall. Her best showing of the fall season was at the Battle at Old Works, where she shot 70 in the second round and finished in a tie at 26th.

Just as she was getting ready to finish out her freshman year with a solid spring campaign, the spring season was canceled due to the coronavirus.

At this point, Joyce had downloaded TikTok, thanks to some encouragement from her golf teammates, and was posting regularly.

Most of her videos were getting a couple thousand views, but in April, one of her videos really gained traction on the app.

Over 35,000 people liked and 405,000 people viewed the video of Joyce doing a dance called "The Drip" in the same backyard where she uploaded her ghost video.

Impressed by the result of this video, Joyce kept uploading videos and the fans came pouring in.

"This is SMOOTH," commented the Chicago Bulls mascot Benny on one of Joyce's videos.

By June of 2020, Joyce had gained over 10,000 followers on the app. Among these followers was Josh Egbo, a former UM football player and TikTok star.

Egbo, who goes by Poof Daddy on TikTok, has over 2.2 million followers and has had videos that gained over 18 million views.

"You deserve the hype honestly," Egbo commented on Joyce's first popular TikTok.

"YES QUEEN," Egbo commented on a later video.

In June of 2020, Joyce and Egbo teamed up to film a dance video on Joyce's account that garnered over 14,000 views. "He's super supportive," Joyce said about Egbo.

In the end of 2020, Joyce uploaded the viral video that sent her to an incomprehensible level of fame. The video has been included in YouTube dance compilations that also have thousands of views.

Joyce still uploads to TikTok, and the number of people following her only continues to increase. Three of the videos she posted after her viral one have already received over a million views apiece.

She is also preparing for the UM golf season, which will start on Mar. 11 in St. George, Utah, at the Lady Thunderbird Invitational. The UM golf team is slated to attend four invitationals before it competes in the Big Sky Conference tournament on Apr. 19.