

MONTANA KAIMIN

CHASING A CHANCE AT REDEMPTION

Following a historic season, Griz
football enters a season of uncertainty
STORY BY HOLLY MALKOWSKI



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Cover illustration by Mackenna Gleave

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Kiosk



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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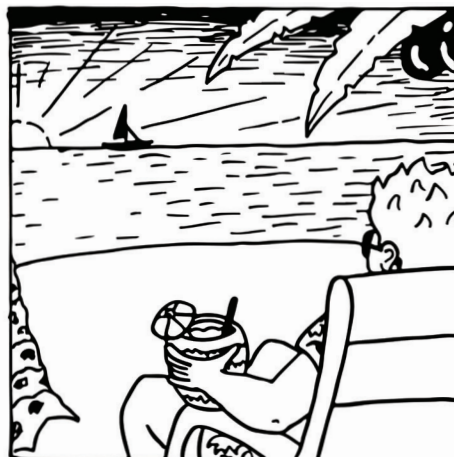
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to the Public**

Turning Pain Into Power

WILLIAM WAN

**FALL 2024 UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
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KAIMIN KOMICS: SE 2 EP 2



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

BARRETT

Fewer home games, more competition

The University of Montana football team is prepared to play mostly mediocre teams, including out-of-conference and unranked teams, for the next two years, according to its schedule. This could leave UM open to another sloppy playoff run and more embarrassing near losses to the Missouri Valley Conference. UM is a part of the Football Championship Subdivision, the second-highest level of NCAA football composed of Division I teams, and should be playing teams above or at their level.

I'm not saying a season full of the most home games in FCS history isn't going to be fun for fans, but I don't want to spend my Saturdays watching a bunch of blowout games against unranked teams from divisions less competitive than our own.

After the hard loss at last season's championship football game, I was expecting the team to push itself this year by fighting its way into more difficult matchups. That way, if it came to another national championship game, the Griz would be prepared for the moment.

UM went from playing schools from the Football Bowl Subdivision, the highest NCAA division with bigger schools who have more money and compete for bowl games, about every other year, to not having a game against an FBS school scheduled for six years and counting.

As a fan, I've had enough of watching us play schools I've never heard of from conferences lesser than our own. I want to see our projected-to-be-great team actually play someone who can bring us to a higher standard.

If we're afraid of losing to a big FBS school, I think the fanbase will accept a loss to the University of Oregon, with a future NFL starting quarterback, more than a humiliating no-score-in-the-second-half loss to the University of North Dakota. It might be a bigger loss against FBS schools, but the challenge of playing a harder team on a higher level can push UM to play tighter and faster off the ball, something we desperately need this season.

And then, when it comes to playing teams on our level, it'll be less of a jump.

If the University of Idaho, which UM beat last year, can travel to and beat the University of Wyoming, we can play an FBS school and be just as competitive.

UM doesn't have to play better teams just for the fan base, though. It should be out of respect for our players. A game against an FBS school gives Griz players and the program more attention nationally, which can be a big draw for future recruits, open more doors down the road for current players and help us take advantage of the transfer portal.

Not to mention UM would get a payout from the bigger schools. North Dakota State University received \$740,000 to play earlier this season from the University of Colorado, a school from the Big 12 conference, from a contract signed after NDSU's stretch of three back-to-back championships in 2016, according to an article by Yahoo Sports. NDSU

is scheduled to receive \$650,000 to play the University of Oregon in 2028, a rescheduled game from 2020.

UM did beat NDSU last year, but it was rocky and saw multiple slip-ups that almost lost us the game. If we don't hold ourselves to a higher standard, NDSU will be prepared for our next meeting, but will we be?

Even South Dakota State University, last year's FCS champions, went out and found an FBS team to play this year. Was it a messy loss against Oklahoma State University that showed their weaknesses? Yes. But it makes the team better in the long run because it pushes them to change their approach to the game.

If UM thinks it's a big dog who can make deep playoff runs regularly, it needs to play better teams to show it.

We don't need to play Alabama to prove ourselves, but a game against Iowa State University or Boise State University would be nice every once in a while, rather than another runaway game against an unranked out-of-conference university. At the very least, as a Griz fan, I would appreciate a game against a ranked FCS school.

UM had eight NFL draftees from 2004 to 2016, the last long stretch of playing interesting out-of-conference games against FBS or ranked FCS schools.

Tyrone Holmes was the most recent NFL draftee from UM back in 2016, who grew up watching the University take on the University of Tennessee and the University of Iowa, which was ranked number 16 in the FBS in 2006. During Holmes' time at the University, he faced Appalachian State two years in a row before it moved to the Sun Belt Conference, Liberty University before it entered Conference USA and the University of Wyoming from the Mountain West Conference, preparing him for the jump to bigger things. UM has a history of playing tougher teams, so why can't we take last year's momentum and push ourselves now?

On Sept. 4, 2021, UM played the University of Washington, a former Pac-12 school and current Big 10 competitor, in a tight defensive game where it came out on top 13-7. And UM only ranked seventh that year, compared to last season's second-place ranking.

I remember watching that game after deciding to attend UM, and thinking how cool it was that my college was able to play up with the big dogs of the FBS. That should be an experience every prospective student gets to have, and something alumni can look forward to.

As a fan, I want a game against bigger schools that shows other teams just how fierce a Montana college can be, not more home games just for the hell of it.

— Mackenna Gleave, design editor

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Email us your opinions at
claire.bernard@umontana.edu

montanakaimin.com Sept. 12, 2024 3

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

Events for the week of
Sept. 12 to Sept. 18

- THURSDAY**
- Griz Soccer vs. North Dakota | South Campus Stadium | 4 p.m.
 - Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament | UC Gaming Den | 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- SATURDAY**
- Griz Football vs. Morehead State | Washington-Grizzly Stadium | 1 p.m.
- SUNDAY**
- String Orchestra of the Rockies | UM Music Recital Hall | 4 p.m.
- MONDAY**
- Second Annual Steve Schwarze Memorial Lecture | Business Building Room 123 | 7 p.m.

NSLS comes to UM; Mansfield gets money; Green Party candidate remains on ballot

NSLS BRINGS LOCAL CHAPTER TO UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Last December, Senior Carli Cebulla applied for the National Honor Society of Leadership and Success' internship program with hopes to become a chapter president. Now, as president, she is working to establish the chapter on campus by making it an official student group under the University of Montana's student government.

NSLS reaches out to students with a 3.0 GPA or higher by email or mail to recruit members by stating this opportunity will allow them to maximize their leadership skills and set them apart from their peers. Part of this promise includes coursework to build your leadership skills and other benefits you can access once you pay the \$95 registration fee and complete the induction process.

"Students have to pay to get access to resources that they otherwise would not have access to," Cebulla said. "For the price, I do think it's worth it because not only do you get access to the Foundations of Leadership course, you get access to discounts, scholarships, a success coach and networking opportunities."

According to the NSLS website, once students complete the induction course, which takes about 10 hours, they receive membership kits which include a certificate, car decal, pin, T-shirt and an optional plaque if they choose to purchase it. Students will also have the option to complete the second level of leadership coursework after the induction process. Cebulla said there are also advanced and executive leadership programs, costing \$165.

While most of the tools and classes are offered online by NSLS, Cebulla has been working on getting an adviser for the organization and maintains a goal of getting the 32 current members networking on campus.

NSLS is a for-profit corporation which allows it to fund its own scholarships and have financial independence. This system allows it to have reliable and quality programs without concern for the economic market, according to its website.

Furthermore, NSLS establishes its accreditation through Cognia, a nonprofit that accredits primary and secondary schools. However, the organization is not recognized by the Association of College and Honor Societies, which is the only certifying agency for university honor societies, according to the ACHS website.

(Emily Messer)

MANSFIELD CENTER RECEIVES \$10 MILLION GRANT

The University of Montana Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center received a \$10 million grant to bring in students from Southeast Asia to 11 United States universities under UM's management.

The grant came from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and has the possibility to be awarded again the next two years, totalling to \$30 million.

The \$10 million grant is for the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academic Fellows Program run by the Mansfield Center. The program pulls students from 11 countries in Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Executive director of the Mansfield Center, Deena Mansour, said the program's goals are to bolster leadership, bring attention to key regional and global challenges and strengthen the relationship between the U.S. and Southeast Asia.

Each university in the program picks one of four themes for the exchange students to focus on, including civic engagement, sustainability and the environment, innovation and entrepreneurship and economic empowerment. The 50 exchange students in the program at UM will study sustainability and environment.

As part of the program, students will design projects based on the theme and then bring them home to make changes in their community.

"[The program] allows us to work with our allies, explain ourselves to other nations and engage with our own citizenry to reinforce the value of our democracy in shaping the direction of the world," Peter Baker,

Mansfield Center director of international programs, said to UM News.
(Corbin Vanderby)

JUDGE DISMISSES LAWSUIT AGAINST GREEN PARTY SENATE CANDIDATE

Robert Barb, the Green Party candidate running for Senate in Montana, will remain on the ballot despite the Democratic Party's attempt to remove him from the race.

The Green Party is a third party that emphasizes conservation and social justice policies above all else in their political philosophy. The Democratic Party has sued multiple Green Party candidates during this election cycle. According to the Montana Free Press, Democrats argued the Green Party is improperly registered to run and some called them "Republican plants intended to siphon votes from Democratic candidates."

Montana Democrats sued Barb in order to remove him from the ballot after his anti-conservation posts and donations to the Republican party raised questions about his identity as a Green Party candidate.

Barb was selected as the Green Party candidate after his opponent, Michael Downey, dropped out of the race. On Aug. 22, Secretary of State Christi Jacobsen certified Barb for the ballot, and the Democratic Party sued soon after.

"This lawsuit was nothing more than bogus political games meant to undermine Montana law with complete disrespect to county election officials during one of their busiest stretches of an important election year," Jacobsen said in a press release.

District Court Judge Mike McMahon ruled against the Democratic Party due to recent changes in Montana law that raised the standards for preliminary restraining orders against candidates, and Barb will remain on the ballot in November.

(Emma White)

POLICE BLOTTER

ABBY WILLIAMS

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It's the third week of the semester and people have already gotten back into their usual habits of mischief and mayhem. From minor car accidents to online scams, the University of Montana Police Department has been busy de-escalating situations and dealing with intoxicated individuals. Students seem to have found ways to have fun outside of class, stupid or not.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31 - FENDER BENDER

Around 3:15 a.m., UMPD responded to a minor car accident in front of the music building. Since there are no video cameras over there, no suspects were found and no arrests were made. If you do hit someone's car, be kind and leave some information behind. Or not. Apparently no one can see you.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31 - PREGAMIN'

A heavily inebriated male tried to get into the Washington-Grizzly Stadium without paying to see the football game, around 7 p.m. on Saturday. He swung at a security guard four times before the police arrived. He was charged with resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and was promptly taken to jail. Who knew cheapskates loved college football that much? But seriously, make sure you have your tickets in order. You missed a pretty close game!

MONDAY, SEPT. 2 - PARTY AT HIS ... CAR?

Half past midnight on Monday, UMPD received a call about a suspicious person sitting in his car in parking lot A. The male was drunk, and since he was in his car, he got a DUI. I really can't see the interest in sitting in your car in a parking lot after a few drinks. Why not go explore some of the benches instead? That's what they are there for. Feel free to use them, friends!

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3 - STRANGER DANGER

On Tuesday, around 10 p.m., a student contacted UMPD about an online scam they had fallen victim to. The scammers wanted money, and the student had paid them just over \$400. However, the greedy bastards still wanted more. The student contacted UMPD for help after they had sent the money. When did the "stranger danger" talk stop happening? Do pay attention to any UM emails that talk about these scams, they are highly important.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5 - CASE CLOSED

Outside of the Washington-Grizzly Stadium someone called in a minor car accident. The catch? No information was left on the car that was hit. Thankfully, a witness was able to snap a picture of the license plate before the car drove away. The suspect was tracked down, recieved a citation and the case was closed. Thank goodness for those iPhones!

Can't get enough? Start listening.

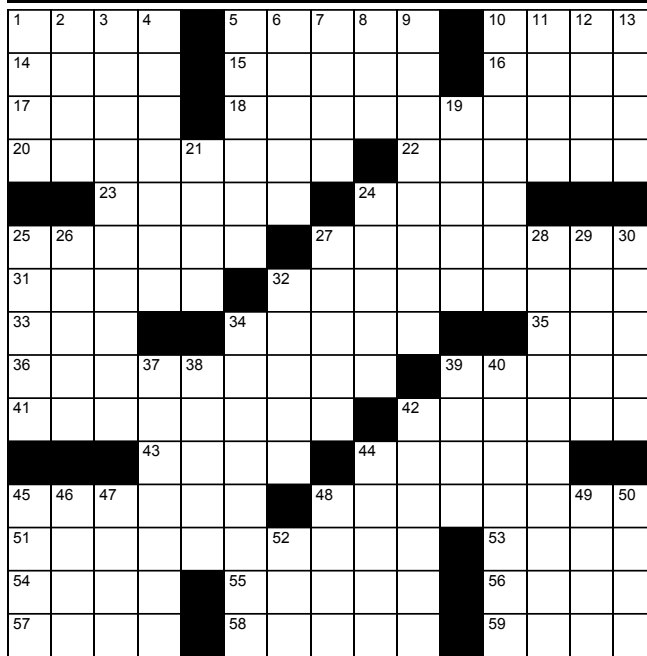
This week, hear Chandler Lieb talk about a new norm at the University of Montana, a League of Legends player who is also a leader in the U.S. military.



New episodes out every other Monday. Scan for the latest.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Sonata finale
5 Laundry problem
10 Chick's chirp
14 Beat anagram
15 Around
16 Wheel connector
17 Get checkmated
18 Hertz rival
20 Morris Albert hit
22 Moon feature
23 Emulates the sun
24 Hens' home
25 Jackpot numbers
27 Like minor defects
31 Wide-eyed
32 Applegate, for one
33 Pot top
34 Rap sheet item
35 Do damage to
36 Battery type
39 1992 film, "____ of a Woman"
41 Out of the ordinary
42 Folds under pressure
43 Preside at tea
44 Genetic double
45 Stocks and such
48 Skin cream ingredient
51 Spreading of a pathogen
53 Vast
54 Word-of-mouth
55 Pontificate
56 Geom. Figure
57 Lock openers

- 58 Supermarket section
59 ____ bien

DOWN

- 1 Ranch newborn
2 Slender reed
3 Rightfully
4 Artist's studio
5 Spectacles
6 Tiny bell sounds
7 Liberal pursuits
8 Rink surface
9 Deep stupor
10 Balcony barrier
11 Off-ramp
12 Apart from this
13 Look narrowly
19 High-school dances
21 Does not exist
24 Shade of pink
25 Spicy dip
26 "Silas Marner" author
27 Put on ice
28 Track official
29 Mindless
30 Supermarket sights
32 Unclouded
34 Get used to
37 Kind of court
38 Mob scenes
39 Loafer, e.g.
40 Score a spare
42 Finalizes, like a deal
44 "J. Edgar" director
45 Run ____ (go crazy)
46 Bone-dry
47 Stick around
48 Where Bhutan is
49 Wedding shower?
50 Plays a part
52 Big brute

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

What's your parking plan B?

KEELY PROEBSTEL

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Parking: Everyone's talking about it and everyone's over it. At this point, it seems like our only options are to explore alternative transportation or find a super-secret parking spot. Look to the stars to find your new perfect backup plan for when you're running 20 minutes behind after looking for more than an hour in vain for a spot. (Disclaimer: The Montana Kaimin does not support these strategies, and if you attempt them, well, that's on you, buddy.)

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): University of Montana Maintenance gets to drive on the sidewalk, so why shouldn't you? All you need is a conveniently similar vehicle and a little paint, and you'll be cruisin' to your next class. It's a super meticulous plan, but if anyone can pull it off, it's you, Virgo.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): No one said you have to take a car to campus — just drive down I-90 for a bit and throw your tube in the Clark Fork. You might have to leave a little bit earlier, but you'll be the least stressed person in your class. It's a fun and literally chill way to get to school.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): The University of Montana has plenty of parking, if you know where to look. Oh, sorry, I meant plenty of motorcycle parking. You're already a badass, but now you can be, like, a Wolverine-type of badass. You'll have to wear a leather jacket everywhere, but that's the opposite of a problem.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): We all know the steam tunnels; we all love the steam tunnels. You could probably fit a car in there... Who knows how you're getting in or out, but at least it'll be an adventure.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Why work harder when you can work smarter? Just set an alarm, drive to the day use lots when they open at 5 a.m., and snooze until your class. You'll be on time and well-rested; that's a lot better than most people.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): You need an innovative way to get to class, so consider paragliding in. All you have to do is

climb up to the top of Mt. Sentinel, catch a nice breeze, and be really, really good at landing. Also, try to look out for the birds.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Bike theft is a problem, but what if you got something no one wanted to steal? Unicycles are like bikes, but difficult and more embarrassing. With enough practice, though, you'll be getting to class fast enough that everyone will be jealous.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): X marks the spot. Lot X, that is. It's a parking lot so secretive that few know it exists. Well, few students, because it's a staff parking lot. All you need is confidence, luck and maybe a little extra studying.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): You're outdoorsy, so what could be better than parking in a tree? It might be hard to get your car down, but if you break anything, you can blame it on the summer storms. Hopefully the birds leave your car alone — frequent washes aren't very eco-friendly.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): What if you could get two people to campus for the price of one? Just get a pair of rollerskates, attach a rope to your friendly neighbor's bumper and car-ski your way to school. It's the kind of innovative and slightly risky idea that's right up your alley, Gemini.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Have you ever seen those tiny, tiny cars that fit in the bike lane? They're the perfect combination of neither street nor sidewalk legal. Who cares, though, when you've got air conditioning, cupholders and the ability to give your friends a lift.
LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): You love being the center of attention and what's more attention-grabbing than parking directly in front of the Grizzly Statue? With a parking choice that bold, others will have no choice but to assume you're meant to be there.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Students battle for federal aid

EMILY MESSER

Emily.Messer@umontana.edu

In the small hallway beside the financial aid reception desk at the University of Montana stood a line of students, coming and going as they attempted to resolve their billing issues.

Some left before they had even fought their way through the line, while others shifted anxiously, waiting. Many were visibly upset. The receptionists stood their ground, explaining the federal government and computer systems were the cause for the delays.

Almost three months behind schedule, the United States Department of Education released the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in late December 2023, which was the first revamp of the application in 40 years. The delayed FAFSA applications created a condensed timeline for the UM's financial aid office to assess students' income threshold — information needed to apply scholarships and grants to a student's bill, according to UM spokesperson Dave Kuntz.

As of publication there is still no estimated date for aid disbursement.

Sara Betz, a senior at the University, said when filling out her application it was seemingly no different from the previous year's and expected the aid to be applied before school started, like usual.

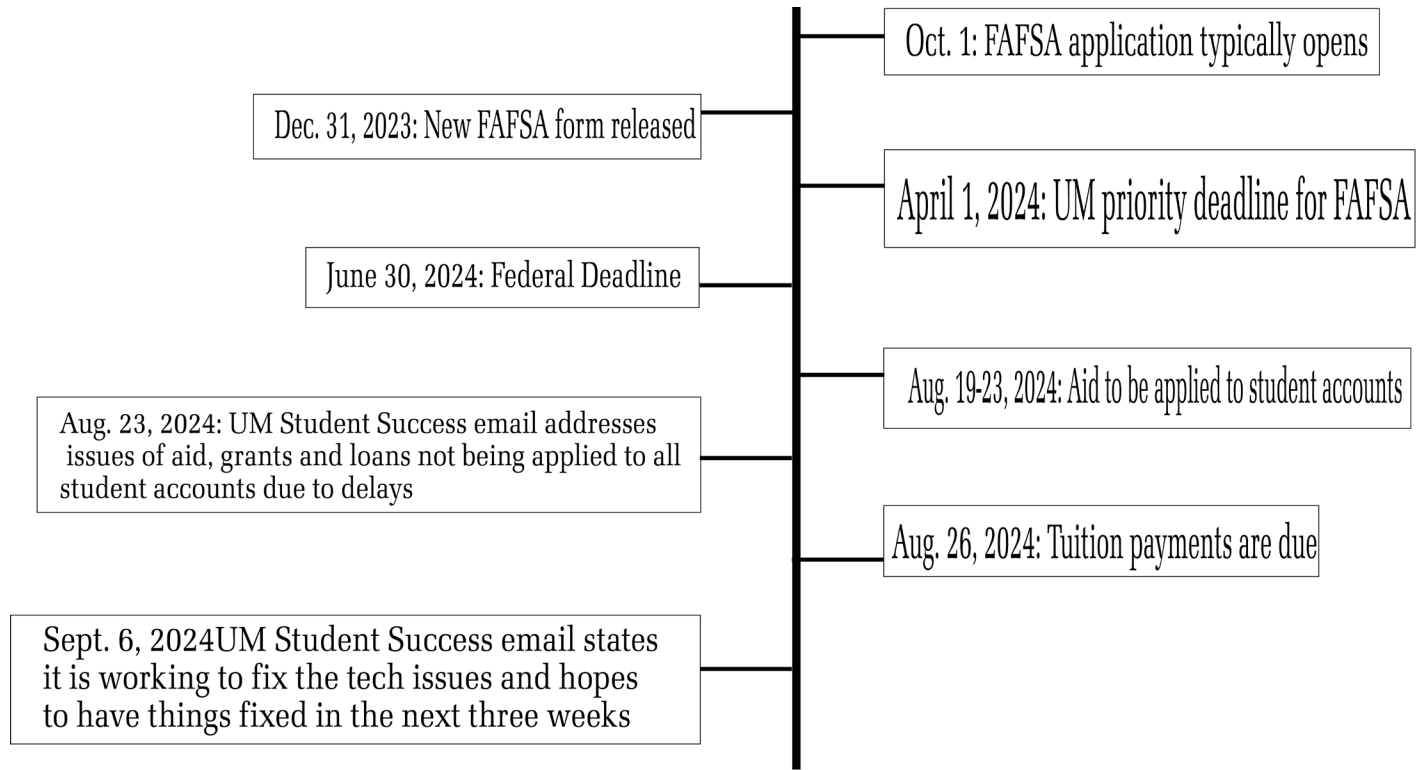
"I just filled out my stuff, called my dad, said, 'Do your stuff,' and then submitted it," Betz said. "And, you know, stopped thinking about it after that."

However, on Aug. 23, 2024, students received an email from UM Student Success saying processing time for loans, grants and other aid had been delayed. This email also reminded students that tuition payments were still due on the first day of classes but extended the late fee charge of \$80 to Sept. 3.

A few days before this email, Betz realized her aid had not been applied to her bill and began attempting to contact the financial aid office by phone, which reached no one. Fearing late fees and being dropped from classes, Betz was able to schedule an appointment for Sept. 5.

Betz said she was filled with stress from this experience and has never had to pay out of pocket to the University. "This is my last semester, so I don't have \$5,000 to just hand over," she said.

This new form was created as a part of the FAFSA Simplification Act of 2020 with



DANE CLEMENTS | MONTANA KAIMIN

a goal of streamlining students' ability to access and apply for aid. That created a shorter application process for most students and changed the financial eligibility format.

The format previously determined aid by how much it deemed your parents would be able to contribute. Now, it also considers each students' financial situation and requires the signing of a "contributor" instead of a guardian. Aid will also no longer split between the number of family members enrolled in college, and it is now considering items such as family size and federal poverty guidelines.

"When you add on the delays, the new form and some of the transitions we're trying to make as a University, it just kinda created a perfect storm," Kuntz said. "Which has led to some of the issues that students are dealing with right now."

The Montana Kaimin attempted to contact the financial aid office interim director Ginger Lowry, but she declined to comment on the delays.

Betz said after her appointment, she was told by a receptionist that when the U.S. De-

partment of Education switched the format of FAFSA, UM's systems were not entirely compatible.

"It used to be that you accept your award offer and it's just automatically applied to your account," Betz said she was told. "Now they are having to go in manually to everyone's account."

Betz said she left the office relieved she won't be charged any late fees and was just going to have to wait for her aid to be applied. She also said the office offered cash advances to students who were affected by the delays to cover any needs, with the funds coming from the University's institutional funds, according to Kuntz.

The financial aid office lists 16 staff members on its website, but Kuntz explained it had a number of staff out on leave this summer.

"Even if it was at full staff, this demand of students would have probably overwhelmed the office," Kuntz said. "But given that it is low on staff and the demand is high, that's what's created the situation where it's just taking a little longer to get appointments and

work through billing issues."

Even though the FAFSA was issued three months behind schedule, the UM priority deadline for applications was April 1, 2024, and the federal deadline was in June, giving the University the summer to determine and regulate these issues before Aug. 26.

"I think what the University is really gonna prioritize is learning from this experience this summer and fall and be in a better position to address it going forward, especially if we continue to see delays from the federal government on the FAFSA form," Kuntz said.

A follow-up email was sent out by Leslie Webb, the UM vice president for student success and enrollment management on Sept. 6, explaining UM is working with the Department of Education to fix the technical issues, but there is no current estimated date for aid disbursement. It hopes to have these issues sorted out in the next three weeks, and said no late fees will be charged for the fall semester.

JON TESTER *WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR*

MONTANA VETERANS



AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, JON FIGHTS TOOTH AND NAIL TO ENSURE MONTANA'S NEARLY 100,000 VETERANS GET THE HEALTH CARE AND BENEFITS THEY'VE EARNED.

★ HELPING VETERANS WITH TOXIC EXPOSURE

Jon wrote and passed the **PACT Act** to deliver health care and benefits to all generations of toxic-exposed veterans, creating the largest expansion of veterans' health care in decades.

★ MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR RURAL VETERANS

Jon passed his bipartisan **Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act** to fortify the VA mental health workforce and strengthen rural veterans' access to care.

★ NEW VA CLINICS ACROSS MONTANA

To ensure every Montana veteran has access to high quality VA health care, *Jon helped secure **12** new VA clinics across the state* — including:

David J Thatcher VA Clinic, which serves Missoula area veterans.

In a rural state like Montana, access to nearby quality care is critical.



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CHASING A CHANCE

A new quarterback, practice facility and defense coaches hope to lead Montana to another championship run

STORY BY HOLLY MALKOWSKI

EVENING WAS CLOSING IN AS THE GRIZ football team lined up for its third straight scoring drive at Alerus Center, the University of North Dakota stadium. The air crackled with tension as the ball was snapped. The opposing team's student section groaned as Griz fans at home erupted in cheers. The University of Montana had scored again. To Griz fans, a familiar feeling was setting in: being in the lead.

But by the end of the second half, the tide was starting to change. UND returned from the locker room with a strong defense, holding Montana to three straight drives without as much as a first down. By the third quarter, North Dakota had become unstoppable, especially in its running game. The Griz were slipping. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Hawks kicked a field goal to tie the game.

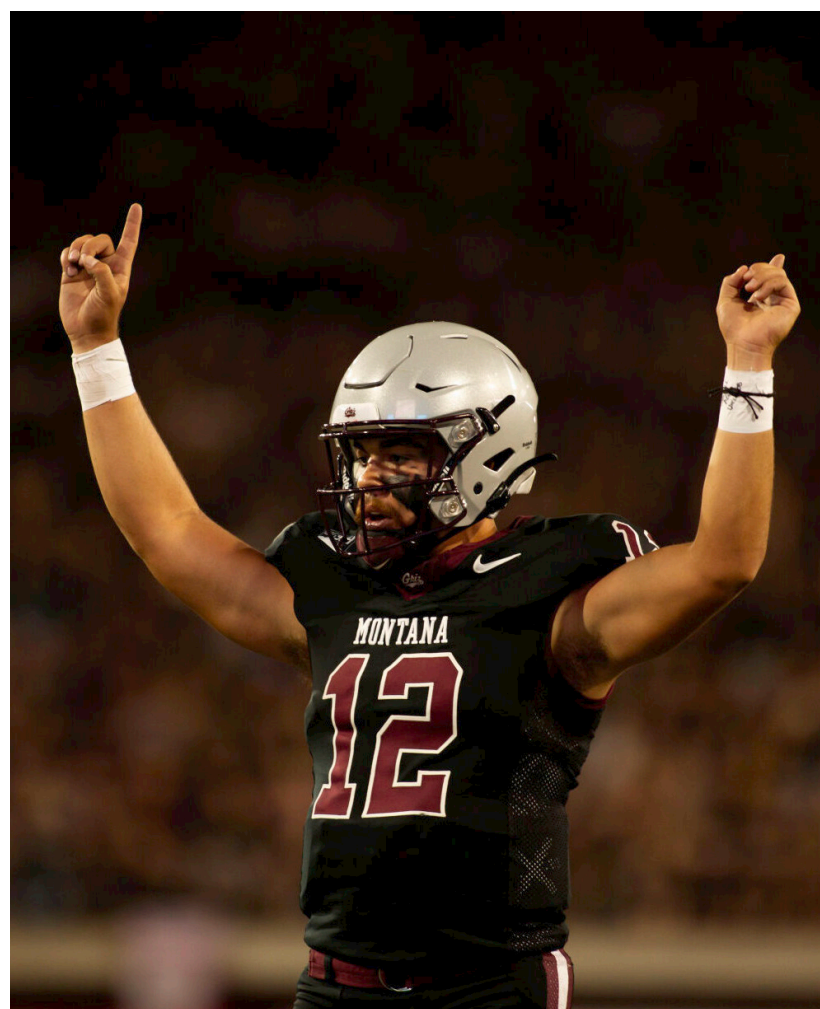
Montana was given another chance when it got the ball back. But it failed to move the ball and was forced to punt, giving UND the opportunity to kick a field goal. The Hawks were now up by three. Montana was officially losing.

With one last go, Griz kicker Ty Morrison lined up at the 54-yard line to make a game-tying field goal. Most Griz fans held their breath. Morrison kicked the ball, falling short of the goal, just as the Griz did.

Montana took its first loss since its FCS championship run ended in Frisco, Texas last January.

Despite the championship loss, coming in second in the FCS was monumental for the Griz. But as the high began to wear off, Montana saw exposed weaknesses and some needed behind-the-lines changes.

Now, at the beginning of a new season, pressure to perform is mounting and Griz fans and players have high hopes. But with a different defensive coaching strategy, fresh quarterbacks and a new practice facility — will it pay off?



Logan Fife cheers at the UM win against Missouri State on Aug. 31.
DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

COMPARING QUARTERBACKS

Montana took a major blow this season after losing its star quarterback, Clifton McDowell, and backup Sam Vidlak to the transfer portal, leaving the key position up for speculation.

But the Griz have high hopes for redshirt freshman Keali'i Ah Yat, who played in five games last season, including the national championship.

Last year, Ah Yat threw for 271 yards and one touchdown, with no interceptions. He completed 26 out of 38 passes for a 68% completion rate.

Ah Yat, coming from Hawaii, said the colder weather was the hardest part of his move, but all the support from Missoula made the weather insignificant.

Watching a quarterback with the Ah Yat name on the back of his jersey is nothing new to die-hard Griz fans. Keali'i Ah Yat's father, Brian Ah Yat, led Montana to the 1996 National Championship game. He is a Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame member and All-American quarterback, and can now watch his son play at his alma mater. Keali'i said it's inspiring to hear people say they loved watching his dad play. For some, living in their father's shadow could add to the pressure, but Keali'i said it doesn't affect him.

"It's just a blessing knowing that he came here and I'm here as well now, and just trying to make my own way now, my own path as myself," Keali'i said. "I'm thankful for everything he has done for me."

Last season, Montana's offense averaged more than 30 points per game, largely impacted by McDowell, who transferred to McNeese

BEAT AT REDEMPTION



State University in Louisiana during the offseason. McNeese State is a smaller school, with an undergraduate population of about 6,000 students, that plays in the Southland Conference, an FCS conference that includes teams from Texas and Louisiana. McDowell posted that he was committed to Temple University before posting again at McNeese. He played in the Cowboy's first game this season, but hasn't seen many snaps since.

McDowell threw for 2,026 yards and 13 touchdowns last season in 15 games, along with rushing for 753 yards and nine touchdowns. McDowell was seventh in the Big Sky in passing yards and touchdowns thrown, and was fourth overall in rushing yards, an unusually high rank for a quarterback. He was second on the team in rushing yards behind running back Jerry Rice and FCS Freshman of the Year Eli Gillman.

After McDowell, the next most played quarterback was Sam Vidlak, who appeared in seven games. After transferring to Montana from Boise State University, he threw for 566 yards, three touchdowns and four interceptions over seven games. He seemed to be competing for the quarterback spot through September last year, but only appeared in two games afterward. Vidlak also transferred in the offseason, going to Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas.

The two-deep roster Montana

released before the season opener showed Logan Fife or Keali'i in the quarterback spot, meaning fans had to wait until game time to see who would play.

In the first game of the season, Keali'i got the start and was 9 for 19 with 90 yards passing. He showed some freshness at times, including a fumble that he managed to get back. His receivers didn't help him out much at first, either, and had a few dropped passes.

"Everyone's chasing improvement every day, trying to get better, because we know what goals we have at the end of the year," Keali'i said. "So I think everyone's just coming together, working hard, and we're just always chasing improvement, and it'll take us a long way."

Montana put Fife at quarterback for the second half of the first game. Fife is a redshirt junior transfer from Fresno State. He was five for seven with 90 yards and a passing touchdown against Missouri State. Prior to being a Grizzly, he was the primary backup at Fresno State and played in all 12 games last season, throwing for 642 yards and three touchdowns.

"The administrative stuff, I thought [Fife and Keali'i] handled really well," head coach Bobby Hauck said in the postgame press conference. "You know, all the play clock stuff and all those different things."

Hauck also said Fife was supposed to play in the second quarter, but it

didn't work out with the amount of time on the clock and the offense Montana wanted to run. But with McDowell rushing for 80 yards in last season's home opener against Butler University and a 35-20 win, both new quarterbacks have big jerseys to fill.

The Griz still have a strong running back core with Gillman, Xavier Harris and Nick Ostmo. The squad shined in the second half, when multiple series of handoffs turned into clutch points for Montana. Redshirt sophomore Gillman ran for 89 yards and two touchdowns against the Missouri State Bears.

Keali'i got the start again in Montana's second contest on Saturday, Sept. 8 at the University of North Dakota. UND was ranked 23rd in the FCS at the time of the game.

Keali'i and Gillman totaled nearly 200 yards in just the first 15 minutes. The score was 24-7 at halftime, but with a poor second-half the game ended 27-24.

Keali'i was 20 for 28 on the day with 145 yards and a touchdown.

Last season, Montana played two quarterbacks until almost midway through the season. It will likely be the same this season while the team is determining who will be QB1 for the playoffs. Fife only played one drive in the UND game, but there's a lot of season left for changes. Now 1-1, the question still hangs for the Griz.



Keali'i Ah Yat plays catch with his teammate after practice on Sept. 3 on the new turf practice facility. JAMES BENTON | MONTANA KAIMIN

DUO DIRECTS DEFENSE

A game-saving interception of North Dakota State University's attempted two-point conversion won Montana the FCS Semifinal game last season. Without a clutch defense, it's very possible the Griz would have lost. And if this year's defense doesn't perform, Montana could see more losses like the one to UND.

Last season's defense was run by Ronnie Bradford, who left after last season to be the senior special teams assistant for the Miami Dolphins. Bradford coached for the Kansas City Chiefs and Denver Broncos before coming to Montana as the cornerbacks coach in 2021. In the 2023 season, he was the defensive coordinator and safeties coach who helped Montana reach a 13-2 record and become the best defense in the Big Sky.

Last season, Montana gave up an average of 17.3 points per game, which was the lowest in the conference. The second best average was Montana State, which gave up 21.8 points per game.

If Montana is averaging a score of 30 points, holding teams to two touchdowns and a field goal is enough to win. The defense also had 41 sacks last year, which lost its opponents a total of 297 yards and a lot of scoring opportunities.

Defensive coordinators watch film, create a game plan and call plays, usually from the box. With Bradford gone, Montana opted to hire two defensive coordinators this year. There has to be a lot of clear commu-

nication and planning so the players all know what play they need to run. Having defensive co-coordinators isn't unheard of, but it is rare.

The position at UM is now split between Roger Cooper and Tim Hauck, younger brother of head coach Bobby Hauck. Cooper was Idaho State University's defensive coordinator in 2013 and again from 2016 until he came to Montana to be the safeties coach in 2022. He switched to linebacker coach last season, and now holds that role along with co-defensive coordinator.

Cooper played linebacker himself at Montana State University, but now has a large Grizzly bear tattoo on his leg.

The Hauck brothers have a history of coaching together. They were both at Montana from 2004-2007 and were on the staff at the University of Nevada Las Vegas together in 2013 and 2014.

Tim played safety for 13 years in the NFL and was a two-time All-American during his time as a Grizzly. He was an assistant coach for the Tennessee Titans, Cleveland Browns and Philadelphia Eagles before he returned to Montana last season as a defensive analyst. This season, along with being a defensive co-coordinator, he is the safeties coach.

Montana gave up a 17-point lead against UND this season and has already given up more points per game than its average last year.

If the Griz continue to struggle to score in the second half, the defense will have extra pressure to make game-changing stops.



Defensive line coach Mike Linehan (left) and cornerbacks coach Kim McCloud watch the defense play on Aug. 31 in its win against Missouri State, 29-24. **MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

DOME DRAMA

Although UM loves its snowy games at the Washington-Grizzley Stadium, practicing in chilly weather can challenge players, including quarterback Ah Yat from Hawaii. But a solution may be on the horizon as the University started construction on a \$10.2 million practice facility encased in an inflatable bubble in the offseason, making it fit for practices in the winter months. The project has not gone without hiccups, though.

Originally, the facility was supposed to be done by fall of 2023. Now, in September of 2024, after multiple delays and a pushed back opening date, the dome is still not completed.

Currently, the practice facility is being used as a normal turf facility with no roof, as it has been since mid-July this year. The marching band, cheer, dance and football teams all use it for practice. The facility has a track surrounding the field, and has an area for athletes to practice field events.

At one point, the turf was installed incorrectly and held potential for injuries, so it needed to be completely ripped up and redone, which didn't help the already slow process. It is expected to be done in the third or fourth

week of September, but doesn't seem to be under construction as of publication.

While the Kaimin was not provided with specifics, this type of bubble structure is typically made out of polyester or vinyl with a fiberglass coating. There is a blower system inside that keeps it inflated with fresh air at a constant pressure and temperature. With the brutally cold winters that Montana typically has and the possibility for a long playoff run into December, this bubble is where the Griz can practice away from the snow and wind.

The dome will keep itself sustained by renting it out when it is not being used by the Grizzlies.

"We've already got a tremendous amount of interest, especially from youth soccer clubs and other clubs that want that indoor facility," Kent Haslam, director of UM athletics, told the Kaimin last month. "It's the only indoor space we've got in all of Western Montana that is that size, and so it will definitely be busy, and it will definitely be a revenue generator that will go back into supporting and sustaining that facility."

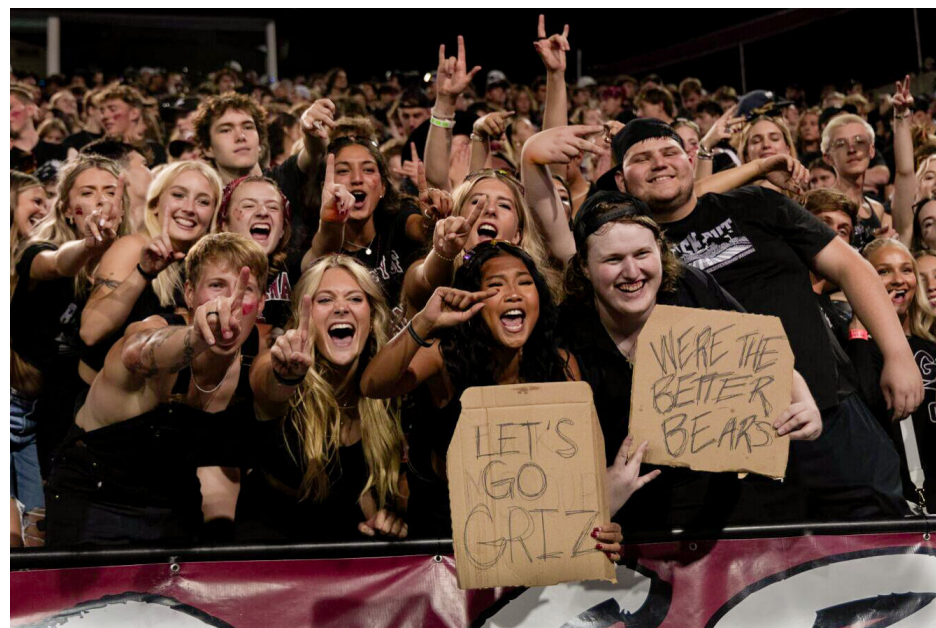
While the dome is going to be a great addition to Montana's program, the delays and continuous issues with the construction will be detrimental if they continue into the winter.



Jaron Forney (left) and Michael Hughes (right) talk construction plans in front of the newly inflated indoor practice facility on Sept. 9. **AIDEN HAVENS | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Running back Eli Gillman takes the ball up the field. Gillman finished the Oct. 28, 2023 game against the University of Northern Colorado with 106 rushing yards and two touchdowns. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Griz fans with two signs they made out of the pizza boxes handed out in the third quarter of the football game against Missouri State on Aug. 31. **MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Griz mascot Monte props his feet up on a Griz cheerleader to watch the latest Monte Movie on Griz Vision on Nov. 5, 2022. The Griz won 57-0 against Cal Poly in a game engulfed by a blizzard.

ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN



Ferris State University quarterback Carson Gulker gets downed by the Griz in a 17-10 win against the Bulldogs on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

WHAT DOES UM GAIN?

Montana had a sparkling football legacy through the '90s and 2000s, and after a bit of a lull, the team is back and continues to gain popularity with record-breaking attendance each year. Montana season tickets sold out the past two years in a row with seven home games. In 2025, Montana will play the most home games in FCS history, with eight in one season. But it's playing a lower strength of schedule, including unranked opponents in less competitive

conferences.

After making it to the National Championship, recruiting for Montana jumped. Montana brought in 28 recruits in 2024, when the previous season only saw 19. This recruiting class is the largest Montana has seen since 2016.

The added exposure from the Griz being nationally recognized, plus the addition of the new practice facility, could yield even more recruits next year.

In Montana's opening contest, the Griz narrowly beat out the Missouri State Bears, 29-24. Missouri State was 4-7 last season, compared to Montana's 13-2. After North

Dakota's win over Montana it jumped from 23rd in the nation to tenth, while UM dropped four spots from its previous ranking to eighth in the FCS.

Missouri State is currently part of the Missouri Valley Conference, but is moving up to the FBS and Conference USA next season.

Montana fans started the season strong, showing up for the Missouri State blackout game even in 90 degree weather. Montana has now won 13 straight games at home and has six left to go this season, not including the playoffs.

"Enthusiasm is at a record level," coach

Hauk said after the season opener.

The current Washington-Grizzly Stadium attendance record is 27,178, set at the Brawl of the Wild in 2023. The capacity for the stadium is 25,203, almost 2,000 less than the record. The student section is standing, which allows extra people to fit in.

The Griz are in Wa-Griz again when it faces Morehead State on Sept. 14. While Montana looked rusty in games one and two, the fans cheered as if it was still the same second-in-the-nation team they know and love. Griz fans are loyal, but the pressure on players to perform better or at the same level as last year is at an all time high.

'Monster + Farmer': The Montana Repertory Theatre's digital age 'Frankenstein'

KAIRI LISING

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Mary Shelley's classic gothic story "Frankenstein" is reimaged in the Montana Repertory Theatre's latest touring production, "Monster + Farmer."

The adaptation by Jacob Mann Christiansen is about Riley, a teenage science genius who runs a YouTube channel on her uncle's ranch near Montana's Mission Mountains. While her brother Aidan is away at college, he recommends Riley read "Frankenstein," which inspires her to build a creature of her own.

The educational tour will be visiting over 30 schools across Montana. Christiansen, the playwright and director, said he wants audience members to come away with questions.

"In the play, we're exploring what it looks like to maintain deep, significant relationships across digital platforms. What we are doing is asking how those tools are limiting our relationships and how they might strengthen those relationships too," Christiansen, who is getting his doctorate at the University of Montana, said.

In the play, the characters Riley and Aidan slowly drift apart while Aidan is away at college. Riley becomes overwhelmed with all of her responsibilities and has a panic attack. When she reaches out to Aidan for help, she is unintentionally rejected. When finally reunited, Aidan helps Riley work through her panic attacks.

The actor who plays Riley, Jackie Kleinsasser, found navigating the panic attack scene was very difficult at first.

"It's really hard for me to sometimes separate that from the show because I have a panic disorder. Sometimes I lose so much energy because my brain is like, oh, you just had a panic attack," Kleinsasser said. "Now it's a lot better and [Christiansen] has helped a lot with changing my mindset."

Christiansen and Kleinsasser have worked together to create a long-term strategy that allows those moments to be replicable and healthy for everyone involved.

"I'm still a young actor. I haven't been through too much, so I'm still learning," Kleinsasser, a sophomore pursuing her



Jackie Kleinsasser (left) and Seth Campbell (right) laugh at each other on Aug. 30 after a rehearsal of "Monster + Farmer" by JM Christiansen. The pair are getting ready to tour across Montana.

KAIRI LISING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Bachelor of Arts in Acting, said.

Throughout the rehearsal process, the actors have found that they portray siblings on and off stage. Seth Campbell, a junior in the acting program, has worked with Kleinsasser before and knew they would work well together portraying brother and sister.

"Seth and I will argue like siblings. I actually sometimes want to rip his head off," Kleinsasser said. Campbell agreed.

Not only are Campbell and Kleinsasser acting in "Monster + Farmer," but they are also putting up the set, communicating with tour stops and setting up lighting.

On Sept. 6, the pair will leave for their first stop, Red Lodge. As they drive across Montana, Campbell and Kleinsasser have been trying to find ways to keep busy on the long travel days. Campaign games, Dungeon and Dragons and reading books are all on

the table.

"Montana is stupid big," Kleinsasser said.

For Christiansen, the process has been very successful. The play has many components, from meme references to Riley's huckleberry-loving pet cow.

"The actors and designers did a great job building a show that is fun and fast paced," Christiansen said. "But the show also slows down and gives Riley and Aidan some real challenges to face together."

Visit
<https://montanarep.com/monster-farmer>
for more information on
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In defense of 'Deadpool & Wolverine'

KEELY PROEBSTEL

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One of my most formative experiences took place in the dingy, fluorescent-lighted haze of my local comic shop. I was maybe 10 and had just recently devoured every "X-Men" show and movie I could get my little hands on. My quest was simple: obtain a comic book. Well, I did just that, and I was horrified. Compared to the comics, the '90s cartoon was firmly grounded in reality.

The allure of the X-Men (and, in the same vein, the Marvel Cinematic Universe) movies is that they feel like our world, but with superheroes. The world-building in comics is far less realistic. The weird part isn't the blue furry guy, it's that literally everyone knows about alien invasions and alternate realities, and they just have to be cool about it. The Marvel Comics Universe is complex and extensive, created jointly by thousands of people over nearly a hundred years, that it had no other option than to become wonderfully absurd. Finally, the movies are

catching up.

With a combined 83 years of Marvel Comics storylines between the protagonists, (that's 34 years for Deadpool and 49 for Wolverine) screenwriters had plenty of strangeness to draw inspiration from.

I'm not going to sit here and tell you "Deadpool & Wolverine" is a great movie. It's a solid B minus outing, and at first blush, nothing to write home about. The hidden appeal, though, is how unrelentingly weird it is.

So, what's "Deadpool & Wolverine" about? Long answer: the effort to save the Marvel Cinematic Universe from convulsion and the ravages of time by doubling-down on the whole "multiverse" thing. Short answer: nerd shit.

After the events of the first two films, Deadpool must save his reality from being obliterated from the multiverse for practical reasons. Because Deadpool's schtick is obliterating the fourth wall, we as the audience understand this culling to be the merging of Sony's Marvel films into

the MCU. All Deadpool can do is find his universe's "anchor being" and restore them. I don't need to tell you who that is, right? (Hint: the title.)

"Deadpool" has always been a franchise with a beating heart buried under all the f-bombs and the third entry is no different. At its core, underneath the multiverse shenanigans, it's a story about both dealing with grief and the power of friendship. In what other franchise could the day be saved by two dudes holding hands to Madonna's "Like a Prayer"?

This is a movie that begins with the literal desecration of a grave and its occupant. If you're the kind of person who is immediately appalled by that, this isn't your movie, and Deadpool is for sure not your superhero. But if you're the kind of person that thinks, "Okay, cool, how are they going to make grave robbery funny?" then congratulations, you're home. (Ventriloquy, if you're wondering.)

Moreover, this is a movie for the fans. Very specifically, the long-time comic fans

that have begrudgingly sat through every Marvel flick that's come out and somehow remained a fan. It's got more Easter eggs than the damn White House. In one particularly great montage scene, I counted at least five comic references that have never come up in other media. Then I stopped counting so I could focus on enjoying the movie.

But therein also lies the caveat about "Deadpool & Wolverine." If you're a casual fan you'll be somewhere on the map between "slightly confused" and "completely lost." If you find yourself in that place after viewing, I have some harsh news for you: "Deadpool & Wolverine" isn't for you. Frankly, it's for very few people.

It's for the kind of people who remember that Chris Evans was in "Fantastic Four" before he was "Captain America," for the kind of people who know in their hearts that Hugh Jackman is too tall to play Wolverine.

It's for the kind of people like me, who literally grew up with "X-Men". Much like the comics, "Deadpool & Wolverine" is for the nerds.

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Group offers NIL deal for senator endorsement

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Montana athletes were recently offered a NIL — name, image and likeness — deal of up to \$2,400 each to make a series of videos endorsing Senator Jon Tester on behalf of a largely anonymous organization called Montana Together. The group is not associated with Tester's campaign.

In 2021, the NCAA — the governing body of college athletics — approved a policy allowing athletes to use the fame associated with their name, image and likeness to partner with brands and receive monetary compensation. Prior to the policy, college athletes could not receive money for playing, beyond scholarships.

The offer, which has two known ac-
ceptees, raised questions about how the NCAA's and the University of Montana's hands-off NIL approach will fare when faced with the ambiguity that comes with political endorsement and the potential for bad actors.

"It's not my job, necessarily, to verify the legitimacy of an organization that's coming to us to pass on an opportunity," Jean Gee said. "This is part of the new NIL world for our student athletes, that you have to become an informed person."

Gee is the senior associate athletic director of student affairs and compliance and senior woman administrator at UM. Potential NIL offers pass through Gee's office before being sent out to the group of athletes specified. She also makes sure athletes are in compliance with NCAA policies, which as of August, first requires them to inform her of all NIL deals over \$600.

Deals, such as the one that Montana Together sent to Gee through a third party, have only been available to NCAA athletes since July of 2021. After losing two cases in the Supreme Court (NCAA v. Alston and O'Bannon v. NCAA) and pressure from state legislators, the NCAA changed its NIL policy. NIL and the right of student athletes to use it with minimal restrictions is also protected by Montana law.

The new NIL policy resulted in the creation of companies, such as Opendorse, that specialize in connecting college athletes with brands Montana Together used it to contact Griz athletes. Opendorse has an app and website that it uses as a NIL digital marketplace and it is entirely independent of UM and the NCAA.



Riley Carolan and Taija Anderson at practice together after receiving a Name, Image and Likeness deal from Montana Together. **JAMES BENTON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

In this case, Gee forwarded an email to athletes from Opendorse that stated it was looking for, "Athletes that attend college in Montana and are interested in spreading the word about Senator Jon Tester and causes you care about."

The email offered five \$400 deals, two \$800 deals and one \$2,400 deal, and required athletes to make two scripted videos for the first offer, two unscripted videos and two personal Instagram reels for the second and four unscripted videos and four personal Instagram reels for the third offer.

Opendorse senior account executive Matthew Thompson's phone number was listed in the email and the Kaimin attempted to contact him and Opendorse on the corporate level multiple times, but they did not respond in time for publication.

The Opendorse website contains a question and answer section where it states that when an organization sends out an NIL deal, the money is automatically taken out of their account and held by Opendorse until an athlete completes the deal, or it is refunded if no one accepts.

Two Griz Soccer athletes, forward Taija Anderson and defender Riley Carolan, took the \$800 deal and at the time of pub-

lication both have posted one Instagram reel endorsing Tester and been paid part of the \$800 total for it. The two were given a range of topics to choose from and both chose topics personally resonating with them.

Anderson's 26-second video conveyed the view that Tester has helped preserve public lands during his time in office and encouraged viewers to stay informed, get involved and speak up.

Carolan's 34-second video focused on the view that Tester helped lower housing and healthcare costs in addition to her view that Tester helped protect American jobs. The video similarly ends by encouraging viewers to stand together, get informed and make sure their voices were heard and addressed.

The videos were posted on the athletes' Instagram accounts two weeks ago and the posts have both received roughly 200 likes.

When it comes to Montana Together, both athletes declined to comment, while UM's Spokesperson Dave Kuntz, said he didn't know anything about the group. Tester's campaign claimed to have no knowledge of or communication with the organization.

Montana Together has Instagram and

Facebook pages, which both have under five followers and total likes. No Griz or other athlete videos are posted on the page and the organization did not reply to an Instagram direct message.

Independent expenditures by organizations like Montana Together are legally allowed to remain anonymous as ruled in the 2010 Supreme Court Case *Citizen United v. Federal Election Commission*, and while vetting such organizations may be difficult, Gee's did mention the responsibility to provide NIL education to student athletes.

"Part of the NCAA's responsibility and our responsibility is to provide the education, like, 'Hey, these are the things that you should probably be looking for to make sure that these requests are legitimate,'" Gee said.

Institutions like UM are required to provide NIL education to athletes, with the NCAA's NIL Assist Platform providing one option. The platform's website contains an ed-

ucation section which links to the NCAA's education page where an NIL 101 section can be found. The section contains links to two 20 minute videos about an athletes' personal experiences with NIL, a two-page PDF which explains the basics and links to two articles published by a website independent of the NCAA.

This year marks the first presidential election cycle where NIL is in play.

"To me, this is the convergence of two larger issues that we find ourselves in the middle of," Kuntz said. "A campaign finance system where these kinds of anonymous groups can play politics, plus NIL, which is new, and everybody's learning something every day."

This year's Montana U.S. Senate race has broken records with the highest amount of financing in political campaigns. According to the Montana State News Bureau, as of July 2024, Democratic candidate and current Senator Tester has spent around \$10.2 million in the second quarter of the year and Republican candidate Tim Sheehy reported \$5.3 million in the same period. According to the Bureau, \$24.4 million has been spent by outside groups on the race.

Boot scootin' on bricks

Photos and words by **MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ** and **DIEGO HERNANDEZ**
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For the third week in a row, Resonate Church of Missoula held swing dancing at the Oval, on the University of Montana campus, as an opportunity for students to make new friends and boogie. This event on Sept. 3 was a way to talk to other students wanting to meet new people and learn how to swing dance. Others who already knew how to swing dance taught those who asked for help.

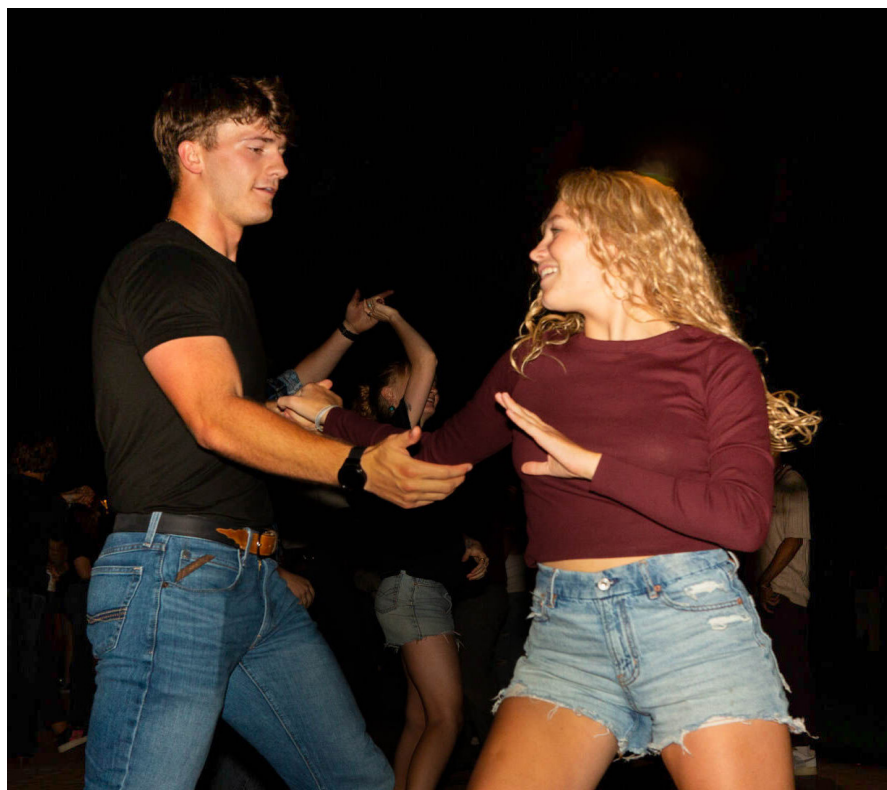
Jack Shipley, a sophomore studying business, has been attending swing dancing events since last year. Shipley said it looked hard at first, but once he started dancing it became simple.

"When you look at swing dancing, you're going to think it's difficult. There's no way I can be throwing someone in the air, doing flips or just spinning around in a 360," Shipley said. "Once you really start dancing it really becomes easy."

Shipley made many friends at the events and said it has become a part of his life that he frequently enjoys.

Students Phin Luhmann and his dance partner Madison Martin, who have been dancing together for three weeks, said they had tons of fun at the event and built trust with each other through dancing. Luhmann first met Martin by stepping up to help teach her some moves.

Resonate started holding swing dances in 2019. The next event has yet to be announced. But Grizzly Stomp — UM's swing dancing club — holds events throughout the semester.



ABOVE: Phin Luhmann lifts Madison Martin over his head under the clock tower while other students swing dance on Sept. 3.

MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

TOP LEFT: Phin Luhmann and Madison Martin perform an around-the-world swing dance lift on the University of Montana campus.

DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

BOTTOM LEFT: Ryker Browning and Serenity Fields practice a dance move on the Oval at Resonate Church of Missoula's swing dancing event.

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