

# MONTANA KAIMIN

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A DEGREE OF  
NORMAL”

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KAIMIN COMIC



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Feature photo: Oval ice rink



A child holds a doll while skating on the ice rink on the Oval. The rink froze enough for people to skate by the end of the week and was closed over the weekend for maintenance. **SAM SHATSKY | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Missoula is... back

We were so close. So, so close to the finish line of this godforsaken pandemic. But now, we might have tripped.

Missoula County, acting in lockstep with newly sworn-in Gov. Greg Gianforte, has opened businesses back up all the way. Bars and restaurants, as of Friday Jan. 22, are able to operate at full capacity and regular hours again. To put that into perspective, on Monday Jan. 18, bars and restaurants were operating at 50% capacity.

The newly updated capacity limits are explicitly vague. According to the new guidelines, “Capacity must be limited to the degree necessary to ensure customer groups maintain six feet from other customer groups.”

So what about when bars, like last Friday, hit their capacity limits and people are jammed together like sardines in a stinky, boozy can?

Former Gov. Steve Bullock’s statewide restriction for businesses to close by 10 p.m., which was extended in December by the Missoula City-County Health Department, was designed to help slow the spread of the virus. But the floodgates have opened, thanks in part to badgering by a local coalition of bars and restaurants known as Revive Missoula Bars & Restaurants, and the aforementioned lifting of the mandate by Gianforte.

Gianforte addressed the rollbacks in a press conference Jan. 13.

“The whole concept here is we’re going to move more to personal responsibility and away from specific mandates,” he said.

But there’s a glaring problem with this decision, which smacks of hubris: We have a vaccine, but COVID-19 continues to spread through Americans at break-neck speed. As of last week, we hit over 400,000 deaths. To put that into perspective, 405,339 Americans died in all of World War II, according to the Defense Department.

There is a serious difference between spilling blood to stop facism, and going to Stockman’s or the Rhino because you’re just so darn tired of being cooped up.

Let’s get something straight: This pandemic fucking sucks. It has kneecapped everyone, pushed our sanity to the brink and forced all of us to take a long hard look in the mirror. We’ve had to fundamentally change how we go about our lives.

But that does not mean—when we are so close to getting out of this hell—that we can let a few hours of unfettered fun take precedent over responsibility.

Currently, Montana is in Phase 1B of the state’s vaccination plan. That means residents 70 years or older, and younger Montanans with a high-risk medical condition, can now get vaccinated. Just over 60,000 Montanans have been vaccinated, but only 10,000 have received both shots.

That’s just over 1% of the state’s total population. Montana has had over 1,100 deaths, with Missoula County accounting for 75 of them.

There is the argument that reopening all the way will create more economic opportunity and jobs for Missoulians. But how long will that last? From this past weekend alone, there will be a spike in cases. Bars were at capacity. Restaurants overflowing with customers. The money was good, but what is the cost?

This dead horse is so tired of being beaten that it’s starting to kick back. But the fact is that if we aren’t careful things will get worse, even if just momentarily, before they get better. So drink at home. It’s easier and there’s less chance to embarrass yourself. Or, you know, to spread this shitty virus.

Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?  
email us your opinions at [editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com)

**SUDOKU**

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

**HOW TO SOLVE:**  
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

*Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:*

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



Briefs: Vaccinations, anti-abortion bills and an anti-racist little library

MAZANA BOERBOOM  
mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

COVID-19 and vaccine distribution in Missoula

As of Monday, Montana had administered more than 77,000 COVID-19 vaccine doses, more than 10,000 of them in Missoula. At the same time there were 308 active cases in the county, just 16 of them at the University of Montana, down by 10 from Friday. Missoula is gearing up to join the majority of Montana communities in moving on to Phase 1B of vaccinations. Those eligible for vaccination under Phase 1B include: Native Americans and other people of color who are at a greater risk of infection; everyone over 70 years old; and people aged 16 to 69 who have a medical condition that puts them at higher risk, including type 1 and 2 diabetes, cancer and heart conditions. To find more information visit the Missoula City-County Health Department website.

Anti-abortion bills move through legislature

Four bills aimed at restricting abortion access advanced in Montana’s House after two rounds of reading Monday, with a third reading later this week. House Bill 167, or the “Born Alive Protection Act,” requires health care providers to take action to maintain the

life of a fetus born alive after an abortion attempt. House Bill 140 would require medical providers show a woman an ultrasound of her fetus and encourage her to listen to its heartbeat before an abortion procedure, with a few exceptions, such as if the abortion is necessary to save the woman’s life. House Bill 171, or the “Montana Abortion-Inducing Drug Risk Protocol Act” would tighten requirements for getting abortion-inducing drugs by banning them from schools, requiring informed consent and for them to be administered by a qualified medical professional; purportedly to protect women physically and psychologically. House Bill 136, or the “Montana Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,” would make it illegal to abort a fetus after around 20 weeks of gestation, or once it’s considered potentially capable of feeling pain. If it’s necessary to abort the fetus to save the mother, then the medical practitioner must attempt to save the fetus’s life regardless, unless it poses a high risk to the mother, “not including psychological or emotional conditions.” Health care providers who neglect to follow the proposed regula-

tions could be subject to criminal charges, except for HB 140, which would expose medical providers to potential civil penalties. According to the Centers for Disease Control, of over 600,000 abortions in 2015, only 1.3% happened after 21 weeks of gestation. Another CDC study found that an estimated 143 infant deaths were induced over a 12-year period ending in 2014, 97 of which involved a complication with the mother or congenital anomalies, meaning a condition inherited at birth such as heart defects or Down Syndrome.

Professor brings new inclusive STEM group to UM

Wildlife Biology Professor Erim Gómez, Ph.D. is bringing a chapter of the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/ Hispanics and Native Americans in Science to the University of Montana. An interest meeting for the group will be held over Zoom this Wednesday at 6 p.m. The organization aims to foster inclusiveness in STEM fields and specifically to advance Chicano/ Hispanic and Native American participation in the fields. “Native Americans face severe disparities in terms of access to

education,” Gómez stated in an email. “We hope that this chapter will create greater access and success in higher education, not only in Native Americans but other [students of color].” Gómez hopes to foster mentoring, connect students to research opportunities and help students earn scholarships from the society. He added that there’s been a lot of interest and support from students and faculty already.

Basketball installs Little Free Library honoring MLK

The University of Montana men’s basketball team put up a Little Free Library outside of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day last Monday. The library was filled with books on anti-racism and minority-focused literature, according to UM’s Facebook page. The players either purchased the books or donated them from their own collections. “The goal of the library is twofold,” the Facebook post stated. “The first is that our community can become more educated about minority themes and learn how to stand up for social justice and fight against racism. Second, the hope is that it will continue to grow.” There are thousands of Little Free Libraries all around the world, with dozens in Missoula.

Blotter: House sitters, theft and property defacement

GRACE CARR  
grace.carr@umontana.edu

Between Jan. 14 and 20, UMPD reported eight crimes on and around campus. Disorderly conduct and criminal mischief appeared as the most common crimes, though the week was seemingly quiet when it came to criminal activity. “Property defacement” was an unusually common occurrence.

**FRIDAY 01/15: BANISHED HOUSE SITTER**  
UMPD officers responded to Yreka Court early Friday morning, where a man was reportedly throwing things and yelling in an apartment. Officers found that the intoxicated man was house-sitting for the apartment’s owner. He was not a student, so there was no referral for student

conduct. He was simply told to go to bed. But when you trash someone’s apartment, you can’t expect to get away with it. Officers returned to the building later that afternoon after the owner requested that the man be removed from the premises. No criminal charges have been made as UMPD is waiting for the owner to return home and confirm what was damaged.

**MONDAY 01/18: “X” MARKS THE SPOT**  
A resident of Miller Hall reported derogatory remarks written on the door of a dorm room early Monday afternoon. In addition to the disparaging wording, a large “X” was scratched into the surface of the door. The cost to fix it is estimated to be around \$20 to \$40 and no suspects have been identified.

**WEDNESDAY 01/20: PAINTING YOUR FEELINGS?**  
Officers removed two sets of graffiti from University of Montana property early Wednesday morning. The words “White pride versus white silence” were written in gray spray paint on the pumphouse shed in Lot M. The words “KKKops, not your friend” were written in red spray paint on the retaining wall of the M Trail. Both have been removed and no suspects have been identified.

**WEDNESDAY 01/20: CREDIT CARD SWIPING**  
A resident of Bannack Court reported a credit card as stolen early Wednesday afternoon. The card had recently been used to make unauthorized purchases. The case is open, as UMPD officers have information on a suspect.



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					

- ACROSS
- 1 Carpenter's wedge

5 Implied

10 Refinery residue

14 Tree on Maine's flag

15 Domicile

16 Anagram of "coat"

17 Checked out

18 Performer's array

20 Moscow or Manila

22 Into pieces

23 Go sour

24 Newbie, of sorts

25 Curved sword

28 Chows down

31 Granola bit

32 Dome on a roof

35 Largest of the Mariana Islands

37 Luau instrument

39 Watch closely

41 Spruce up

42 Lend a hand to

44 Con's confines

45 Notary's tool

47 Borrower's burden

49 Nashville NFLer

52 Long time (var.)

53 Toweling-off spot

56 Lookout point

59 Constraint

61 Like some wires

62 It precedes one

63 Button material

64 Responsibility

65 Close-fitting

66 The way things are going

67 Nautilus captain
- DOWN
- 1 Technical standard, briefly

2 Slangy greeting

3 Incompetence

4 T-shirt size

5 Hairy arachnid

6 Biblical brother

7 Arresting figure?

8 Perfect

9 To the point

10 Fred and Barney's time

11 \_\_\_\_ to rest

12 Farm division

13 Suffix with theater

19 Lipstick holder

21 Instant

24 Quid \_\_\_\_ quo

25 Like lemons

26 Soap units

27 Big galoots

29 Paint thinner

30 Puts away

33 Butcher's offering

34 Held back

36 Base or case closer

38 Strong dislike

40 Girder material

43 Go astray

46 Swing support, maybe

48 Deodorant type

50 Contaminate

51 Rose essence

53 Trash collectors?

54 Before long

55 Grand, briefly

56 Saddle feature

57 Reproductive cell

58 Baja bread

60 Cooler contents

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:														
A	C	E	D		S	P	L	I	T		W	R	I	T
B	O	A	R		T	R	A	D	E		H	I	R	E
E	L	S	E		R	O	Y	O	R		B	I	S	O
D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E		M	O	M	E	N	T
		B	R	A	T		R	E	I	N	S			
G	E	E		B	A	T		A	N	O	I	N	T	S
H	A	R	D	Y		R	O	S	A		C	O	O	L
O	G	L	E		C	I	V	I	L		A	N	N	E
S	L	I	M		O	V	A	L		A	L	O	N	E
T	E	N	A	B	L	E		Y	A	P		N	E	T
			R	O	O	T	S		L	E	S	S		
R	A	N	C	O	R		W	I	L	D	W	E	S	T
A	Q	U	A	M	A	R	I	N	E		A	N	T	I
C	U	L	T		D	I	N	K	Y		T	S	A	R
Y	A	L	E		O	B	E	Y	S		H	E	R	E

Horoscope

Inauguration Fit



ALEX MILLER  
alex.miller@umontana.edu

Woweee! The 2021 Presidential Inauguration brought out some fire outfits. From Michelle Obama showing why she rules the world, to Sen. Bernie Sanders’ cozy and current get-up, all of the fashion senses were tingling. So buckle up, bust out the monochrome and find out your fashion spirit animals.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18):** Do you like “The Hunger Games?” Lady Gaga does, or at least whoever helped design her fit does. Now, she might not have been deciding which districts were up for tribute, but she was killing it with the navy and fire-red ensemble. Simple, yet unique; just like you, Aquarius.

**PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20):** Ella Emhoff, Vice President Kamala Harris’ stepdaughter, assembled an outfit that was equal parts old-school and modern classic. A duality of fashion, if you will. Which works perfectly for you, my fishy peeps.

**ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19):** Bold. Ambitious. A white-on-white outfit with a pirate shirt. Jennifer Lopez.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20):** Cozy and chic; that works for you, Taurus. And who was both cozy, chic and killing it in all green? Lawyer, activist and author Meena Harris, Vice President Kamala Harris’ niece. Go get'em, you hard-working cosmic oxen.

**GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20):** Somehow, Katy Perry out-Gaga'ed Lady Gaga. And so would you, Gem. Sure, she may have been wearing a French Baroque-era bedspread, but it worked.

**OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

**CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22):** Whatup, crustacean nation? You’ve got that certain spice, and that special sauce that blends high-fashion with cool. Nikolas Ajagu, Meena Harris’ husband, and you should talk. He graced the stage with the Dior Air Jordan 1’s. Only he—and you—could get away with that.

**LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22):** Fire. Passion. Fashion. Amanda Gorman has got the stuff for you. And your royal leanings will feel at home in her custom yellow jacket and red hat. She is the new queen of poetry, after all.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22):** This is so on-brand you could find it at any store, which Sen. Bernie Sanders did. Except for those cozy mittens. Anyway, it’s all about practicality and functionality for you, Virgo, and what says that more than Bernie’s “I have an appointment at the DMV after this” outfit.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22):** Let’s talk about symmetry, Libra. You love it. And so does Michelle Obama, whose perfectly balanced plum outfit stole the whole damn show. And the belt. That glorious, magnificent belt.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21):** You didn’t show up and promptly left on Marine One in an oversized suit.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22):** Dr. Jill Biden’s cashmere overcoat (fun fact) was adorned with embroidered flowers representing every state. She covered all her bases, just like you would, Sag.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19):** No distractions, just forward progress. You’re about that life, Cap, and so is Vice President Kamala Harris and her straightforward, powerfully purple get-up. She’s not taking any shit (see the



News | Guns on campus?

# Bill that could allow guns on campus works its way through legislature

MARIAH THOMAS  
mariah.thomas@umontana.edu

Montana House Bill 102 has the potential to allow guns on Montana’s university campuses.

The bill has been moving quickly through the state’s legislature. It has already passed the House of Representatives in a vote of 66 to 31. All yes votes on the bill were cast by Republicans; the no votes were all cast by Democrats.

On Jan. 20, the bill had its first reading in the Montana Senate, being heard by the Senate Judiciary Committee. If the bill passes in the committee, it goes to the entire Senate for readings and a vote.



Officer Croft outside the University Police station the morning of Jan. 25, 2021. The current campus policy on firearms states that only police officers and Federal authorities licensed to be armed are allowed to carry guns on campus. HB102 would change that. **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Bill sponsor Seth Berglee, a Republican representative from House District 58, did not respond to multiple requests for an interview. At the first reading of the bill for the House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 6, Berglee introduced his bill.

“The purpose of the bill is to expand the people of Montana’s right to carry firearms with the understanding that the right to self defense is a fundamental right that has been granted all the way back through the Constitution and even before that,” Berglee said at the Jan. 6 hearing.

House Bill 102’s current language holds that the Montana University System is ruled by the state’s constitution, and, because of this, the college campuses in the state are considered public property. According to the bill, firearms should be permitted on university campuses, as public property.

As of Jan. 22, the bill stated, “Any significant prohibition upon the possession of firearms at or on the various campuses of the Montana University System calls into question the rights that the people have reserved to protect themselves from government interference under Article II, Section 12, of the Montana constitution.”

Berglee said on Jan. 6 that House Bill 102 has a lot to do with Board of Regents policies that regulate firearms on college

campuses in Montana.

The current Montana University System policy prohibits possession of firearms on college campuses, unless they are in the possession of peace officers or federal authorities who are licensed to be armed. The same policy also states that students living in residence halls are not allowed to store their firearms in a dorm room. Rather, firearms must be stored with campus police, and students must follow required procedures in order to check them out.

According to Kevin McRae, the Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, the current MUS firearms policy came

as the result of an incident at Montana State University where a student killed two other students with a gun in a dorm room. McRae said that the policy has been on the books for about 30 years.

“The policy has worked well, and there has been no gun violence to speak of since then,” McRae stated in an email.

House Bill 102 would allow open-carried guns on campus, and students would be allowed to store guns in their dorm rooms, as long as their roommate knows the gun is there. Those in the state who have legal concealed-carry permits would also be allowed to have concealed-carry

weapons on the university campuses. The bill’s current language also has a potential legal loophole for permitless concealed carry.

Because of the bill’s fast pace through the legislature, the Associated Students of the University of Montana did not have a chance to submit testimony against the bill at the Jan. 20 morning hearing.

ASUM President Taylor Gregory said that the bill falls outside of ASUM’s legislative priorities. Because of this, the ASUM Senate was required to take

a stance on the issue—open carrying of firearms on campus—before it was able to lobby for or against the bill.

At its meeting on the evening of Jan. 20, ASUM did approve a resolution to oppose open carry at the University of Montana. Maggie Bornstein, ASUM’s Student Political Action Director, said that the decision to oppose open carry was due to multiple factors, among those being extensive research that access to firearms on campus increases risk of violence, and it challenges the effectiveness of UMPD.

“Bills promoting carrying of firearms on campus undermines our campus law enforcement officers,” Bornstein said.

She said ASUM is against the bill, but missing the testimony on Jan. 20 means that opportunities for students to take action on the bill are limited. She encouraged students who were interested in speaking about the bill to call or email their legislators. Bornstein also said ASUM supports any students who have stories they wish to share in the media.

McRae, the Deputy Commissioner of Higher Education, did submit testimony at the Jan. 20 hearing. He said that House Bill 102 would create safety concerns and potential problems at large events. In addition to these concerns, McRae also mentioned concerns about student wellness, particularly the increased suicide risk that could be posed by this bill.

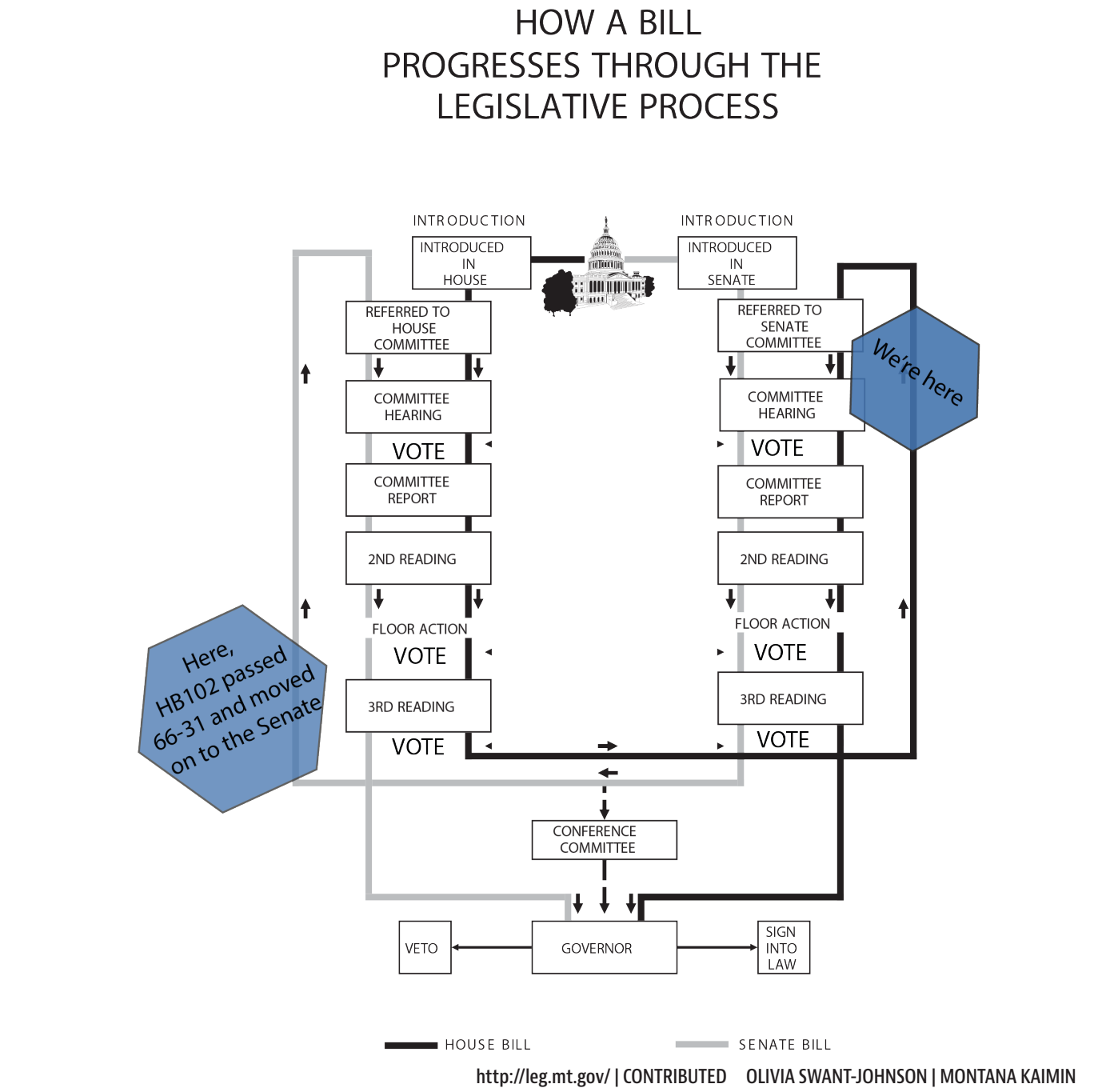
In his testimony, McRae said, “Montana’s DPHHS reports that 60% of Montana suicides are by firearm and among young people it is 72%.”

For Nancy Hobbins, the suicide prevention coordinator at the Missoula Health Department, this bill is very concerning.

“One of the most vulnerable populations for suicide ideation is college students,” Hobbins said. “For college students, it’s often their first time being away from home, there’s higher pressures, and a desire for perfection. All of that is a dangerous recipe for a young mind.”

She also said that, in her line of work, one of the most important preventative measures is not providing access to lethal means with which to complete suicide. Hobbins said that this bill would make lethal means readily accessible to college students, who already have several factors putting them at high risk.

If the bill passes, there is still uncertainty about whether it would override current University policy. Anthony Johnstone, a professor who teaches a course on Montana’s Constitution at Alexander Blewett III Law School at the University of Montana, said this law is in conflict with the Board of Regents’ authority.



According to Article X of Montana’s State Constitution, the Board of Regents has full power and responsibility over the Montana University System. Because of this, the state’s constitution does provide the Board of Regents some exclusive authority over University affairs.

Johnstone explained that if House Bill 102 were to become law, the Board of Regents can keep their current policy on the books. The issue with this would arise when students are trying to determine which rules to follow—the state, or the University.

According to Johnstone, the issue with the bill is the question of whether the Board of Regents has exclusive authority over firearms on campus.

“Laws that go to the heart of University autonomy to do the work of educating students and searching for truth are typically Board of Regents powers,” Johnstone said.

Johnstone said that, should this bill go into law, he thinks it would be most likely that any legal challenges would come straight from the Board of Regents against the state legislature.

“This is not the way legislation is typically drafted in terms of the Constitution protecting rights,” Johnstone said. “If the University was violating student or staff rights, then it could be challenged without this law.”

The Senate Judiciary Committee has yet to set a date to vote on whether the bill will have a hearing in front of the whole Senate. If it is voted out of committee, then a hearing in front of the entire Senate is the next step the bill must pass before it may become law.



# ASUM opposes anti-trans sports bill

GRACE CARR  
grace.carr@umconnect.umt.edu

A representative from the Associated Students of the University of Montana stood before the Montana House Judiciary Committee on Jan. 18 and gave testimony in opposition of House Bill 112.

HB 112, also called the “Save Women’s Sports Act,” would bar transgender girls and young women from women’s sports teams at the K-12 and collegiate levels.

Jack Rinck, an ASUM lobbyist, is a recent UM graduate and working in Helena on Montana’s 67th legislative session for ASUM. He opposed the bill on behalf of UM’s student government, citing previous National Collegiate Athletic Association, or NCAA, policies and the potential economic deficits the Missoula community would face.

“In my testimony, I reference two past pieces of legislation,” Rinck said. “One in North Carolina and one in Idaho.”

In North Carolina, the state legislature passed a bill in 2016, which limited bathroom accessibility to sex assigned at birth. As a result, the NCAA banned all championship events from the state until the law was overturned.

Idaho passed a bill in 2020 called “The Fairness in Women’s Sports Act” which is strikingly similar to the Montana house bill now. The NCAA threatened to bar Boise from the privilege of hosting the regional rounds for the Division I men’s basketball tournament during March Madness.

Rinck told the committee that the NCAA has historically demonstrated they won’t favor states that pass discriminatory legislation regarding trans athletes. In addition, he said the organization already has explicit policy in place regarding trans athletes.

“The effects of potentially passing this law could be preventing UM and [Montana State University] from hosting any sort of FCS football playoff games,” Rinck said. “It could hinder the ability of any college in the state to host any sort of conference championships across all sports, both men’s and women’s.”

He added that collegiate sporting events are big sources of revenue for not only the University, but also the surrounding Missoula businesses that accommodate visiting fans.

Rinck joined ASUM because of his



The Montana State Capitol Building in Helena, Montana. CONTRIBUTED

passion for student engagement, political engagement, and public service. He says this hearing emphasized his respect for democracy and civility in politics.

Maggie Bornstein, ASUM Student Political Action Director, echoes Rinck’s beliefs and facilitates student engagement for the legislative session.

Bornstein said, when choosing which bills to take a stance on, UM’s student government refers to its legislative priorities. HB 112 affects the first priority, which is to protect funding for the Montana University System. It also overlaps with the fourth priority, which contains discrimination protections.

In addition, ASUM looks at issues it knows to be important to students in the past and what areas they felt would be most impactful to students.

“With this bill in particular, we saw that

it would take college athletics hostage and campus hostage essentially through not being compliant with Title IX [nor] the NCAA,” Bornstein said.

On Monday the House passed both HB 112 and its sister bill HB 113, which bars medical providers from distributing medical care for gender dysphoria to minors. The bills will move through the Senate next.

“I think there are a number of organizations that will likewise also turn out in opposition just because this bill is discriminatory and it has no place, I think, on our campus,” Bornstein said. “We don’t want to be implicated by any discriminatory legislation.”

## “APPROACHING A DEGREE OF NORMAL”

### AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. ANTHONY FAUCI

#### Q&A BY JACOB OWENS



Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks at the James C. Hill Memorial Lecture delivered by Lawrence Corey, M.D., Principal Investigator of the HIV Vaccine Trials Network (HVTN) in Lipsett Amphitheater at NIH on May 9, 2017. Contributed Photo / NIAID

The nation’s fight against COVID-19 brought Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, back into the public arena. Dr. Fauci has been at the forefront of the United State’s battle against COVID-19 since the virus arrived last winter, and since then, a new generation has quickly become familiar with the man previously known for his work during the AIDS epidemic.

“I think that we could probably, as we get into the fall of 2021, begin to approach a degree of normality,” Dr. Fauci said in a Jan. 22 interview. “Maybe not completely the way it was.”

As the pandemic raged on, Dr. Fauci became the face of the federal government’s scientific response, a name spanning regions and generations. He has kept the public updated as the medical understanding of the coronavirus shifted and the future was unclear. In a time filled with fear and uncertainty, Dr. Fauci became the symbol of rationality and calm for many in the nation.

Last year concluded with hopes of a speedy vaccine distribution, but the rollout has fallen short of expectations. After a holiday season of COVID-19 fatigue and new variations of the virus cropping up, things appear worse in the new year than they did last spring.

In an exclusive interview with the Montana Kaimin, Dr. Fauci discussed the current state of the nation’s fight against COVID-19 and the work still to be done, as he prepared to headline the University of Montana’s virtual Mansfield Lecture on Feb. 17.

*This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.*

**Montana Kaimin:** Missoula is a small community, and the University of Montana is a smaller public university. What made you decide to give the Mansfield Lecture in February?

**Dr. Anthony Fauci:** We have a strong affinity to the state of Montana. A very important part of my institute is in Hamilton, Montana, which is referred to as the Rocky Mountain Laboratories, even though it’s physically dissociated from the campus here. We feel that the Montana component of the Institute is equally as part of the Institute, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, as anything else. We really do feel that part of our home from a scientific standpoint is in Montana, and that’s the reason why I felt it would be appropriate for me to give a lecture in the state that houses one of the important components of our institute.

**MK:** With regard to messaging, do you think there’s been enough outreach to the more rural areas of the United States like Montana?

**Dr. Fauci:** We have tried to do that. In fact, often in our public outreach, we get involved

montanakaimin.com January 27, 2021 9



with giving interviews to radio stations and TV stations that are not the classic New York, Washington-based networks and cable TV. We try to do some of the local stations, and I think we’ve been pretty successful in that kind of an outreach.

**MK: Staying focused on Montana, public health recommendations have been for small gatherings to be held outside if possible, and as you well know, Montana, and much of the northern United States, doesn’t have the luxury of mild winters. What would you advise for those looking to get together indoors this winter?**

**Dr. Fauci:** There are a couple of things that one can do. You could limit the size of the gatherings—the social gatherings—you should try and restrict it to people who have been taking equal care to avoid infections, like people that might get tested occasionally, that consistently wear masks and consistently avoid crowded settings. If you have a social gathering, you should try [as best as possible to] restrict it. Also, you should remember that you’ve got to wear masks, even indoors. Now obviously, if you’re having a meal or you’re having a drink it’s tough to do that because you’ve got to take the mask off when you eat and when you drink, but as to the extent that you possibly can, continue to wear a mask. The other thing that you can do is try to keep the ventilation and airflow going, like keeping a window open or a door cracked to try and make sure to the extent possible that you have a good degree of airflow.

**MK: Over 410,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. This is despite a vaccine being developed with unprecedented speed. How did a country with the medical knowledge and capabilities of the United States get to a place where it has the most COVID-19 deaths in the world?**

**Dr. Fauci:** We’re a big country, and we have a diversity of physical, geographic, cultural and population differences. We have 50 states that tend to want to do things a little bit differently, and I think there are probably a complexity of reasons why we have suffered so badly. I think one of the reasons [the U.S. has been so heavily impacted] is we didn’t do things in a unified way. When you have an infectious disease that has the capability of rapidly spreading from person-to-person, you have to have somewhat of a uniformity of response. We didn’t have total disagreement, [but] we didn’t have total agreement, and many states actually made public health measures a political issue, like refusal to wear a mask. Those are the kinds of things that get in the way of an adequate public health response. I think if you really want to face the facts about what’s gone on, there has been really a very disparate inconsistent response in different parts of the country.



Dr. Anthony Fauci speaks at the podium during a press briefing on the arrival of Ebola patient Nina Pham to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center in October 2014. Dr. Fauci was appointed as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in 1984. **Contributed Photo / NIAID**

**MK: And do you see that kind of varied response continuing? Or do you see any reason to be hopeful that the disparity may lessen a bit?**

**Dr. Fauci:** I would hope that it does. I hope that when people start to see and ask themselves, “How is it that such a rich and powerful country has done so badly compared to others?” they realize that may be due to some of their own behavior, and I hope that behavior changes.

**MK: Turning to the vaccine, there’s been a new kind of technological approach in terms of developing some of the vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna were the first two vaccines to receive emergency use authorization from the FDA, and they began distribution in December. They utilized messenger RNA technology for their vaccines, and I’m curious, do you see these messenger RNA vaccines as a potential new norm for vaccines?**

**Dr. Fauci:** I wouldn’t say it’s a new norm. I would say that there’s going to be a lot of

interest in utilizing this platform technology for vaccines and diseases that we have not been successful in developing vaccines—for example, HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and maybe even vaccines against some cancers. I think you’re going to see a lot of interest in determining if this new, very interesting technology can be successfully applied to other diseases where we have not had as much success.

**MK: The United States fell well short of its goal of vaccinating 20 million Americans by the end of 2020, so I’m unsure if this timeline has moved, but Lt. General (Ret.) Paul Ostrowski told MSNBC in late November that all Americans who want a vaccine will be able to get one by June. Many college students are considered low risk and will presumably be kind of near the end of the line to be vaccinated. When do you think college students will start to be vaccinated?**

**Dr. Fauci:** I would hope that it would be as we get into the summer. We want to get through the higher priority groups by the time we get to April, so I would think

anywhere from May onward that we’d start to get caught up. Otherwise, healthy non-risk college students toward the end of the spring in the beginning of the summer. I hope it will be closer to May than June.

**MK: Even when the vaccine is available, some college age students may not be in a rush to be vaccinated or they may not get it at all because maybe they’ve already had a mild case of COVID-19, or maybe they haven’t had it, but they just have very little concern about it. What would you tell these students?**

**Dr. Fauci:** I think everyone needs to get vaccinated, not only to protect yourselves—because even though the likelihood that you’re going to get a serious illness is low, it’s not zero, and a lot of young people, proportionately few, but in numbers, a significant amount have gotten serious disease—but also to help protect those around you, as well as your family. If you get infected, even though you don’t get symptoms, you could then inadvertently infect someone who actually



Dr. Anthony Fauci receives the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine at the United State Department of Health and Human Services/National Institute of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Kick-Off event at NIH on Dec. 22, 2020. **Contributed Photo / NIAID**

would have a serious outcome. It’s not only a personal responsibility to yourself, but it’s a societal responsibility that you have to have because you want to be part of the solution to end the outbreak, not part of the propagation of the outbreak.

“I think everyone needs to get vaccinated, not only to protect yourselves—but also to help protect those around you, as well as your family”  
– Dr. Fauci

**MK: Something even more controversial than vaccinations has been wearing**

**a mask—the public health measure of wearing a mask has become very political in the United States. I know you mentioned it earlier, and I’m curious if you think public health institutions, like the National Institute of Health, can continue to be effective in an increasingly polarized political environment?**

**Dr. Fauci:** Well, the National Institutes of Health is a bit different because we do research, and even though there is politicization of wearing a mask, the research that we do is not going to be influenced by a polarized environment. What gets influenced more is trying to implement public health measures, which each of us all are responsible for. So as an organization, the NIH is responsible much more for basic and clinical research than it is

for a public health message. I get out there as director of one of the institutes trying to spread a public health measure. For me, polarization is a negative element and a negative issue to get the message across. For my institution, for what our goal is, about basic and clinical research, that in some respects, we’re a little bit dissociated from that.

**MK: My last question is related to this idea of a post-COVID-19 world. I’m curious, when do you think we will get back to a semblance of normalcy, and what does that normal look like?**

**Dr. Fauci:** It’s really going to depend on a number of factors, so it’s difficult to predict because you don’t know if these factors are going to come into place. One of the most important things is, “What is the level of uptake of vac-

cines?” In other words, “What percentage of the population do you need to get vaccinated to get herd immunity?” Until we get herd immunity I don’t think we’re going to get back to any degree of normality. We can reach herd immunity if 70% to 85% of the population gets vaccinated, added to the people who’ve already been infected and at least temporarily would be protected. If that happens—if we roll out the vaccine program successfully—I think that we could probably, as we get into the fall of 2021, begin to approach a degree of normality. Maybe not completely the way it was. I don’t think we could abandon all public health measures, but I think we’ll be able to be less stringent on many of them and feel that we’re approaching a degree of normal. I would say that would be sometime in the fall, late fall of 2021.



# ‘PARANOIA’ is all over the place

MEGHAN JONAS  
Meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

Maggie Lindemann refuses to corner herself in one genre. But maybe this pop princess should. Is “PARANOIA” bad? No. Should it be listened to more than once? Also no. Is it worth even a single listen? Probably not. This whole record is just Lindemann screaming “I’m different!!!” directly in her listeners’ faces. But just because someone says something over and over doesn’t make it true. It’s not that the songs are bad, although they are. It’s the fact that Lindemann put out a 20-minute EP with eight songs on it. To do some quick math, that’s about two-and-a-half minutes per song. There’s noting bad about a short song. Knowing when to stop writing and let something exist on its own is important. But it sounds like Lindemann did it out of laziness, not out of an artistic process.

Lindemann’s attempt at being uber-different left the EP with no cohesion. Each song is on its own island, with an ocean’s worth of distance between each track. “Yeah, turn down the volume or we’re all going to go deaf,” Lindemann says on “GASLIGHT” before thrashing listeners with intense, headache-inducing screaming. There’s nothing wrong with a little scream, as long as it’s done well. But this isn’t. It causes discomfort, not catharsis. Then we get industrial samples (think Nine Inch Nails, but with a Nickelback filter) on “SCISSORHANDS” that sound like they’d be played at a very sketchy rave. Lindemann goes into some Sia-inspired vocals that don’t quite land as she sings with cool dejection. And just when we think it couldn’t get any more confusing, we get an acoustic guitar. Like? What? How do we go from screaming to bad samples to a singer-songwriter showcase? We’re tired, Maggie. Please, just pick a genre and stick to it. In Lindemann’s defense, the record

sounds like she got super fucked over by her production team. It’s important to have people who care about an artist’s passions, but can also bring them back to Earth when their ego trip stops being cute and starts being icky. And Lindemann’s aloofness throughout this EP doesn’t help. We actually can’t tell if she cares, or if she’s driving this schizophrenic record off a cliff for fun. Who’s to say? Maybe she wasn’t ready for a full project. That would be fine! Her vocals aren’t bad, especially when she’s going full pop-punk princess. But this album is a total cluster-fuck. Lindemann has been putting out singles for six years. In an interview with Billboard, Lindemann said that she was waiting to put out a full project until she figured out her sound. But she didn’t. Instead, we got a grab-bag full of songs that don’t go together and make us uncomfortable when listening to the album front-to-back. Lindemann has the potential to be a great



CONTRIBUTED

artist. But in order to do that, she needs to figure out her sound on her own. And in the meantime, she shouldn’t subject listeners to records that don’t work and reek of uncertainty.

# ‘Lupin’ is an addictive, clever puzzle of revenge

HALEY YARBOROUGH  
molone.hawee@gmail.com

Netflix’s new series “Lupin” is like any good disguise. On the surface, it’s a shiny, thrilling and mysterious story of a cunning thief. But beneath lies the dark origin story of a man hell-bent on revenge. The stylish French original, created by George Kay, ranks among such foreign gems on Netflix as “Dark” and “Cable Girls,” with a plot comparable to “Ocean’s 11” and a suave protagonist reminiscent of Agent 007. But the heist-focused “Lupin” is more Danny Ocean than James Bond. The series is a modern adaptation of the early 20th-century “Lupin” novels by Maurice Leblanc. Omar Sy stars as Assane Diop, a cunning thief who styles himself after the novels’ hero, Arsène Lupin. Like Lupin, Assane is a master of disguise. From the outset of season one, he orchestrates a daring heist to infiltrate the Louvre and steal Marie Antoinette’s necklace. For someone so hulking in size, it’s hard to imagine Assane easily fading into the

background. Yet that’s exactly what he does. His repertoire of disguises is simple but vast, and his comical makeovers are just convincing enough to deceive those not looking closely. Couple with Assane’s remarkable ability to lie, and you have the perfect thief. Assane’s heists are magnetic, giving the show a certain shiny appeal that fleshes him out as both a skilled criminal and a gentleman. But “Lupin” is much more than fun and games. Every episode peels back the layers of Assane’s childhood, exposing the ugly circumstances of his father’s death. His motives for thievery stem from his desire for vengeance against the wealthy Hubert Pellegrini (Hervé Pierre), who framed Assane’s father to save his own business. The father, a Senegalese immigrant named Babakar, had been powerless to challenge a wealthy, powerful white man. But Assane’s race is what gives him an edge as a thief. His employers often overlook him, police often confuse him and he plays into white people’s discomfort with race as easily as he changes his appearance. Though “Lupin” is arguably unseasoned by its absence of other people of color, it

does address the broader consequences of racism’s irrationality rather effectively. Yet the heart of “Lupin” lies less in the story and more in the actor. Sy remains the anchor, pulling off his many artifices with a lively charisma that brings a modern Arsène Lupin to life. Almost every role is believable, whether he plays a flirt, a father or a hero— not to mention his killer style. Other characters in the show feel less fleshed out than the hero. The police’s game of cat-and-mouse with Assane, specifically officer Youssef Guedira’s (Soufiane Guerrab) obsession with each trick, feels tedious in comparison to the clever fun of Assane’s games. The depth of the villain Pellegrini’s corruption does not fare much better from the show’s treatment. Aside from being detestable, Pellegrini is a one-note character. He’s malicious with an intent that seems undercooked. Assane remains the star of the show. With Sy’s performance centering the story, “Lupin” is a clever, exciting series engrossing enough to keep you clinging from one cliffhanger to the next. The first five episodes are currently available to stream, with five more on the way.



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# Puppy for the pandemic? Emotional support animal numbers increasing

CLARISE LARSON  
clarise.larson@umontana.edu

Spring semester is in full swing now, marking the third of the coronavirus pandemic. With it comes another semester without parties, large events or simply getting dinner with friends. Students are looking for ways to alleviate the strain of isolation and loneliness. To combat this, students across campuses in the U.S. have been increasingly adopting emotional support animals, or ESAs. The purpose of ESAs is much like a prescription given by a doctor. Only it’s not a medication, it’s a companion to help alleviate mental health issues such as anxiety or depression. Logan Miller, a sophomore at UM, adopted his dog Delta at the Missoula Humane Society of Western Montana last August. Delta serves as his ESA and lives with him off campus. Miller adopted her after realizing the pandemic does not seem to be slowing down, and he needed some help. “This summer during the pandemic I was not going through a good time, and she kinda got me out of that mindset,” Miller said. “It’s nice to have a dog around, it’s motivation to get out there. Being alone is kinda bad for me. My life has gotten a lot better since getting Delta.” Over 1,300 students at UM have applied for ESAs this past year, both on and off campus, meaning roughly one out of eight people University-wide. As of now, there are 187 ESA living in UM housing, Melissa Neidigh, the Associate Director of UM housing, said. Director of disability services Amy Capolupo says this follows a trend. “Nationally, there has been an increase. But for our students, they have been requesting them even prior to the pandemic.” Sierra Lenox, the shelter manager at the Missoula Humane Society of Western Montana, said that the shelter has seen an increase in interest in adoption during the pandemic. “We closed for about two months during the pandemic because of safety, but now we are seeing many people wanting to adopt animals from us,” Lenox said. Over the past eight years, students at UM have increasingly been requesting ESAs. The most popular of the animals for which UM sees applications for are dogs, cats and snakes. “They might help people get out of bed in the morning, engage in routines, and give



University of Montana student Logan Miller and his ESA, Delta, outside of the Lewis and Clark apartments on Jan. 15, 2021. CLARISE LARSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

them a purpose,” Capolupo said. “Dogs or cats can give a calming presence. Some people even have snakes that can constrict around them that can give them a calming presence and [make them] feel very supported.” The nature of what emotional support animals do has not changed during the pandemic. More people are experiencing isolation and increased anxiety due to the pandemic, as many studies have shown. Something to consider during the pandemic is if your isolation and anxiety is related to the pandemic, or to your overall health, Capolupo said. “This pandemic may be over by next fall, and if that isolation was just temporary in response to the pandemic, now someone may be stuck with an animal that they cannot care for,” Capolupo said.

An important thing to consider when thinking of getting an ESA, Capolupo said, is making sure the animal will help you alleviate a disability (such as a mental health issue) and not make the disability worse by causing extra stress or anxiety. “Ask yourself: Is this disability expected to last your lifetime? Some emotions could be temporary in response to the pandemic, compared to having major depressive disorder,” Capolupo said. The cause for the increase of ESAs at UM during the pandemic is that the University is not currently a “pet” friendly campus. ESAs are not pets, but that does not stop students at UM from petitioning to allow both to exist on campus. “If we have a critical mass of students requesting animals, there shouldn’t be a need

for a student to get a disability diagnosis just to get an animal,” Capolupo said. For Miller, even though Delta is registered as an ESA, having regular pets on campus as well would make life a lot better. “I grew up with four dogs in the house, so leaving home and leaving the dogs kinda left a void in my heart, so getting Delta, it really helped me through it,” Miller said. Overall, many college students have a baseline of anxiety and depression, said Capolupo. Given the pandemic and all the hardships going on in the world, if animals can help the average student feel happier and more welcome, then UM should allow them. “If going to college at the University of Montana is that more inclusive and friendly because we allow pets, then we should allow pets,” Capolupo said.



# The death of the red hat

CLARISE LARSON  
clarise.larson@umontana.edu

In May of this past year, if I walked to the top of the hill at Lakewood Hills Park in Minneapolis and stood on the bench, I could see the smoke of a burning city billowing above the skyscrapers.

It was beautiful against the sun, but the beauty only lasted a few seconds before the reality of it set in.

My city was on fire.  
My dad was adamant about keeping his BB gun in his room, because that was the only form of protection we had.

At 9 p.m., we locked all our doors. Even the doggy door.

We never lock the doggy door.  
Contrary to what many people might think, my family and I were not scared of the people protesting the murder of an innocent man. We were scared that we might see red hats in our city. If we saw red hats, that meant war. Us vs. Them.

How strange it is that a red trucker hat can pick up such powerful connotations in a handful of years.

It started as a symbol promoting a political movement. “Make America Great Again.” A simple rhythmic phrase adopted by Donald Trump to grow his campaign into a presidency.

It worked. But as his presidency continued, the red hats increasingly stood for something darker. They were embraced by white supremacy groups like the Proud Boys, who use politically-driven hatred to justify acts of terror across the country.

Now, in 2021, what remains of the red hats’ link to any specific political ideology is unknown. Joe Biden has been sworn in as the 46th president, but whether or not Trump’s most avid supporters will continue to elevate him as the leader of their cult is unknown. Only time will tell.

Maybe we will see the red hats as we stroll the aisles of Goodwill. I hope so. But at the same time, the sight triggers a painful reminder of 400,000 U.S. citizens dead at the hands of an unbridled pandemic, the normalization of lies and political division, and of America’s greatest step backward.

I think they will disappear. Or I want to believe that. They surpassed their original intent and now are forever going to be a



ELLA MUSGROVE | MONTANA KAIMIN

symbol of the horrors that happened in these last four years.

America is fragile. How difficult it is to identify the right side of history to be on when the leader of our republic deceives through lies and manipulation?

What is clear is that denying justice and equal rights to U.S. citizens is a violation of the quest of the last 200 years to become a more free and equal union.

I want to understand people’s desire to support a president who tells white supremacy groups to “Stand back, and stand by,” against people who are marching to protect our humanity and civil rights?—which is the

meaning of “Black Lives Matter.”

To understand their desire to support a president who let his supporters attack the Capitol of our nation.

The inhumane treatment of refugees at our southern border.

I want to understand, but I do not. All I can do is hope. I hope that we can come together under this new president. A new beginning.

I hope one day red hats can hold a different meaning. That my shoulders will not tense up when I see them. That they will no longer be a symbol of oppression, racism and white supremacy as they felt like to me for so long.

Our former president has said and promoted

some things that will take up chapters upon chapters in our children’s history books.

As my kid flips through the pages of the past, I hope they ask why everyone was wearing those hats, and not have to know firsthand why.

We could go in circles about whose fault it is whose in America. So far, it has gotten us nowhere. I know people fight for what they believe in, and that under each hat is a living, breathing person. I will respect that.

But, at least for now, and probably for a long time: Red hats won’t be a staple of my wardrobe.

# UM volleyball hopes to go great places with new faces

JOHN ORZECZOWSKI  
john.orzechowski@umontana.edu

In early 2020, UM volleyball announced that Peyton Boutwell, a transfer from Abilene Christian, was joining its squad. The redshirt senior from Oregon will bring much needed experience to UM’s 2021 squad.

Boutwell and Schuette are two of the team’s three upper-class players, the other being junior Missoula native Sarina Moreno. The other 13 players are freshmen or sophomores.

“When I visited, it felt like home,” Boutwell said. “I love the coaches and I felt welcomed by the team. Everyone was so nice and I just felt like this is my place and this is where I’m meant to be.” She’s already earned her degree and is working on her Master of Business Administration during her final year of school at UM.

Head coach Allison Lawrence stressed the importance of the experience Boutwell brings as a senior.

“She knows how to get into practice and get the most out of every rep,” Lawrence said. “That’s something that you don’t really learn until you’ve had enough experience to know what that feels like.”

Lawrence had similar words for junior transfer Jordyn Schuette, who came to Missoula after spending two years at Cal Berkeley.

“You play at a program like Cal, and you see volleyball at the highest level, and she knows how to go about her business at the highest level and expect the most out of her and her teammates,” Lawrence said.

“I’ve been really impressed with the freshmen... the adjustments from COVID have only made them dream bigger, and they’ve talked about it and verbalized it a lot more than other classes,” Lawrence said.

Volleyball, like every other fall sport at UM, had its season pushed back to the spring.

“We’re so excited. Put in all this work, and we finally got to go and travel,” Boutwell said.

UM opened play at Idaho State, where the Griz beat the Bengals 3-2 on Jan. 24.



University of Montana middle blocker Peyton Boutwell spikes the ball as outside hitter Amethyst Harper stands in watches in the Adams Center West Auxiliary Gym on Jan. 22, 2021. **SAM SHATSKY | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Boutwell had 15 kills and 10 blocks in the game.

Coach Lawrence said that while the extended time to start gave the freshmen more time to develop, “It inhibited a lot of growth for returners just because they lost the bulk of the offseason.” She’s more than ready for the season to get underway after an unusual 14-month break.

The season is going to look different

this year, as the team is required to wear masks while they play

“It conditions you more, for sure... it’s not terrible. We’re just making it work, and no one’s complained about it,” Boutwell said. She added that masks make the players focus on eye movement and communication since they can’t see the bottom half of their opponents’ faces.

Boutwell has a goal to be the leading

blocker in the Big Sky Conference. Last year, Northern Arizona’s Abby Akin led with 145 total blocks.

UM finished 7-23 in 2019 with a 6-12 conference record.

UM’s next game will be against Weber State on Jan. 31 after its two games against Idaho State.



# Spring training and science experiments: The story of James Bosco

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

UM Ph.D. candidate James “Jimmy” Bosco has played at some of the highest levels of baseball against some of the best players in the world. Now, he’s studying one of the most basic levels of life and development at the University of Montana.

“Depending upon the day, I’ll either be doing research, taking my own classes, teaching or all three,” said Bosco, a California native.

He does his research in the Interdisciplinary Science building, where he works in a lab filled with microscopes, chemicals, elastic gloves and worms. The worms are called “C. elegans” and they are miniscule compared to an earthworm, so miniscule that Mikaya Terzo, a lab tech, stands at the back of the lab looking at them through a microscope.

“This is the very base of cancer research,” Terzo said.

Bosco and Terzo are looking at the cell division in the C. elegans by tracking their genes. The C. elegans they are tracking glow because they have genes from jellyfish that were artificially placed in them.

If Bosco and Terzo can find ways to regulate the cell division in the glow worms or find signs of mutations in their growth early on, they could apply these findings to humans and help cure things like cancer

and diabetes. As it turns out, the growth of humans isn’t much different than the growth of C. elegans, at the cellular level.

If the researchers find something interesting on the small microscope, they take the worm sample into a room with a larger microscope that costs thousands of dollars. On this microscope, the individual cells of the worm can be seen and counted. If it is a male worm, there should be exactly 1,031 cells.

As Bosco explains just how much this microscope can zoom in, he shows off his phone’s lock screen, a photo of individual bone cancer cells that he took at a lab in California.

Once Bosco and Terzo are done showing the cells of the fluorescent worms, Bosco walks over to his workbook. Today he is creating a bacteria by putting a mixture in a machine that spins 25,000 times a second.

As Bosco describes his research, he uses a sports analogy.

“We know all of the players that we have, but now we’re just trying to figure out the game.”

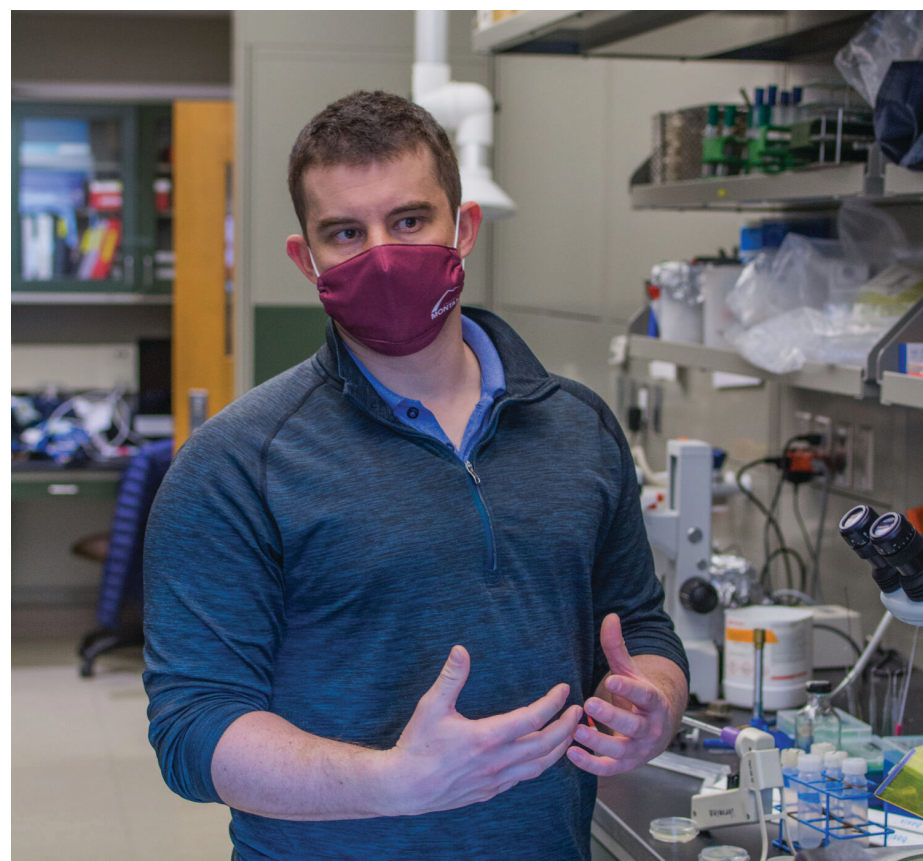
A game that Bosco has already figured out is most definitely baseball. He was drafted in the 13th round of the 2013 Major League Baseball draft to the St. Louis Cardinals, who offered him \$80,000 and four years of school. The Cardinals originally offered Bosco \$40,000, but thanks to his agent, Doug Reinhardt, who was dating Perez Hilton at the time, he was able to get more.

Before he was drafted to the highest level of baseball, Bosco played at the University of Arkansas and Menlo College, a small college in California. At the University of Arkansas, Bosco rode in private jets around the nation before he played in the College World Series in front of more than 30,000 fans on ESPN and finished third in the nation.

“We did a lot of crazy, amazing things, but I actually look back more fondly on my time at Menlo College, where I was driving around in a van,” Bosco said.

Upon getting drafted from Menlo College, the St. Louis Cardinals assigned Bosco to the State College Spikes, a minor league team in Pennsylvania, where he hit for over .300 and was named a New York Penn League All-Star.

After playing for the Spikes he went on



University of Montana Ph.D. candidate James Bosco in a lab at the Interdisciplinary Science Building on Jan. 22, 2021. Bosco and lab technician Mikaya Terzo are studying cell division in microscopic worms, called C. elegans, as a step toward studying and regulating similar divisions in human cancer or diabetes cells.

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to play for a variety of minor league teams, including the Peoria Chiefs (Illinois), Frederick Keys (Maryland), Aberdeen IronBirds (Maryland) and, his favorite team, the Palm Beach Cardinals (Florida).

“Had the St. Louis Cardinals just kept that nucleus of baseball players together, we would have been in the World Series,” said Bosco about his team in Palm Beach.

Over six of the batters alone on the Palm Beach Cardinals made it to the major league. Bosco also met his future wife when he walked into a Lululemon in Palm Beach.

He played in multiple Major League Baseball spring trainings alongside and against numerous professional baseball stars, including pitcher and four time Major League Baseball All-Star Bartolo “Big Sexy” Colón, who Bosco hit a home run off of.

New York Yankees first baseman and 2020 Major League Baseball home run lead-

er Luke Voit was a teammate and at one point a roommate to Bosco.

When he had a daughter and had already played nearly four years of high level baseball, Bosco decided to go back to school. Bosco worked alongside multiple Nobel Prize winners while getting an undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley before heading up to Montana in 2020.

Along with doing research, he can be seen teaching one of his three Chemistry 123 sections.

“I really like teaching actually,” he said. “Most of the students who sign up for the class want to be there.”

Bosco’s research is part of his hopeful Ph.D. degree in biochemistry and biophysics. Ph.D. candidates at UM rotate around and research at different labs on campus.



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