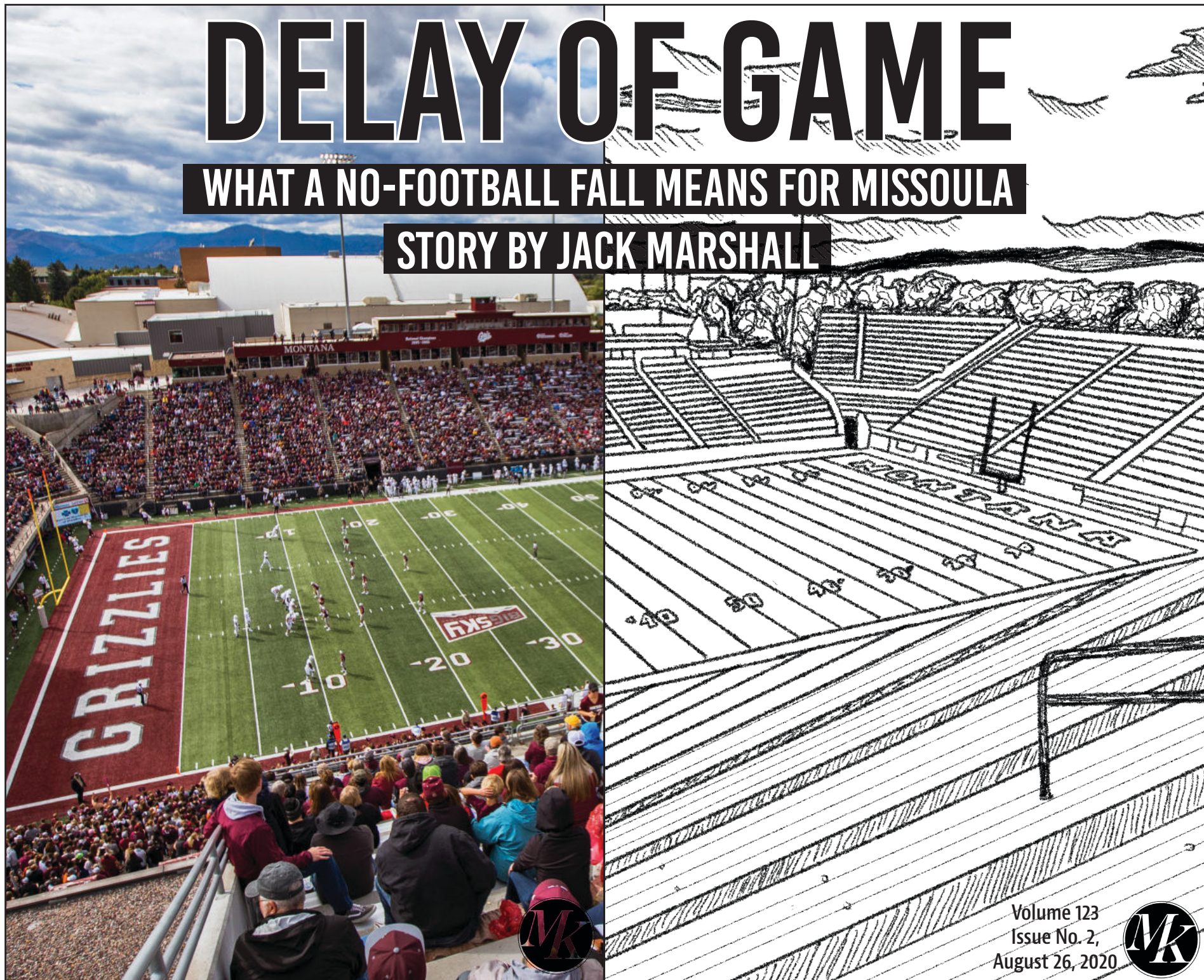


MONTANA KAIMIN

DELAY OF GAME

WHAT A NO-FOOTBALL FALL MEANS FOR MISSOULA

STORY BY JACK MARSHALL



Volume 123
Issue No. 2,
August 26, 2020



Cover photo
Hunter Wiggins



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."

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Erin Sargent

BUSINESS MANAGER
Cassandra Williams

SPORTS EDITOR
Jack Marshall

NEWS EDITOR
Mazana Boerboom

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Alex Miller

FEATURES EDITOR
Addie Slanger

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Claire Shinner

DESIGN EDITOR
Daylin Scott

DIGITAL EDITOR
Sara Diggins

NEWSROOM STAFF

NEWS REPORTERS
Hanna Campbell
Isabella Butler
Griffen Smith
Nikki Zambon
Jacob Owens

SPORTS REPORTERS
Mariah Thomas
John Paul Edge

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS
Noelle Annonen
James Bradley
Clint Connors
Meghan Jonas

MULTIMEDIA STAFF
Hazel Cramer
Liam McCollum
Nick Mills
Emma Smith
Alexis Schroeder
Walter Medcraft
Matt Tryan

DESIGNERS
Constance Darlington
Natalie Brancaccio
Colten Rothwell

CARTOONIST
Cooper Malin

COPY CHIEF
Andrea Halland

COPY EDITORS
Zandria DuPuis
Alicia McAlpine

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
Abigail Stone

ADVISERS
Tammy Kim
Jason Begay

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Montana Kaimin

@montanakaimin

@MontanaKaimin

For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact editor@montanakaimin.com or call (406) 243-4310.

For advertising opportunities, contact ads@montanakaimin.com or call (406) 243-6541.

ICYMI
(In case you missed it)

A UM Basketball was charged with felony strangulation last week:

Did you miss the fire on Mount Sentinel? Probs not, but if you missed the story you can find it here:

UM hired a new enrollment VP last week, from University of Alaska Fairbanks:

Looking for last week's cover story? We wrote about freshmen keeping campus healthy:

KAIMIN COMIC



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We deserve more COVID transparency on campus

On July 16, UM sent out an email to students confirming COVID-19 hit the campus community. Classes hadn't even started yet, and already, Curry Health Center could confirm several positive cases — all enrolled students.

After students received the email, we published a piece online. It's the kind of reporting we intend to do all year. After talking to campus officials about the UM alert, it was made clear to us that UM wanted to communicate new information as it became available, and has regularly been updating

its COVID-19 website with more information about mask policies and Healthy Griz Kits galore.

But when is UM going to release COVID-19 testing results? Universities across the country are reporting COVID-19 numbers on their campuses — including campus "clusters" and infection rates — and so far, we've heard nothing. Currently, UM's COVID testing numbers are grouped in with Missoula County's. That's not enough. The next couple weeks are going to be pivotal to UM's success as an

in-person campus. The people who participate in that campus should be made aware of whatever situation we're facing. Are there no active cases? Are there five? Are there 20? In this issue, we feature more reporting on how UM plans to keep its students safe. How UM will enforce its Healthy Fall Plan 2020. How a sentinel testing program in the UC will start asymptomatic tests for the student body. And, importantly, how contact tracing guidelines will mean professors don't always have to be notified if their student tests positive.

But what campus needs is context. As classes start into full swing and students settle into the "new normal" of campus life, UM continues to ask us to wear our masks. To practice social distancing. To refill our Griz Kit hand sanitizer at the UC. Ok, cool. We're just curious when we are going to find out what COVID on campus actually looks like.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- BRIEFS & BLOTTER PAGE 4
- HOROSCOPES PAGE 5
- COVID-19 PAGES 6 & 7
- GRIZ FOOTBALL POSTPONED PAGES 8-11
- PANTZER RENOVATIONS PAGE 12
- REVIEWS PAGE 13
- STOP-MOTION PAGE 14 & 15
- LACROSSE PAGE 16

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

Copyright 2020 by The Puzzle Syndicate

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:

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

Blotter: Broken Mailboxes and marijuana magic

GRIFFEN SMITH
griffen.smith@umontana.edu

The Kaimin covers crime in and around campus every day to keep readers informed. From the funny stories to the serious crime, the blotter documents each week of interaction between police and the campus community.

8/15/20 SURPRISE GIFT

A new student moving into Craig Hall discovered a gift from the previous resident, a small baggie of pot. The student decided to give his gift to UMPD to be destroyed. The student was not punished for the regift. "I don't think they would call the police if it was theirs," said University of Montana Police Lt. Brad Giffin.

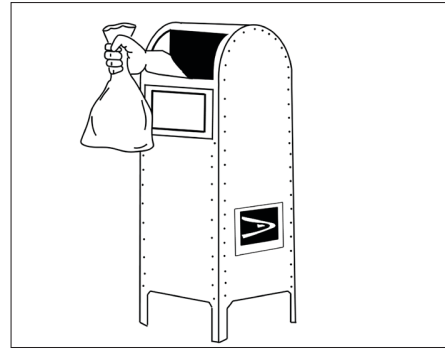
8/16/20 HOT DOG

Police came to the rescue of a dog left in a car around midday at Emigrant Court. Officers told the owner to give the pup some fresh air, but were called again when the dog was still in the car. This time the police called a tow truck to open the door, at which point the owner obliged and let the doggo free.

8/17/20 - MAILBOX BREAK INS

Two reports of attempted mailbox theft occurred at two separate apartment buildings in the University Villages area. A suspect battered a mailbox unit in Columbo Court, though nothing appeared to be stolen.

UMPD reported another mailbox was pried open as early as Aug. 10, but the resident who used the box said their mail was being forwarded to another location. Lt. Giffin noted the crime was likely done by the same person, but there is no way to be completely sure. "Mailbox break-ins is definitely a trend that is starting," said Giffin. "We at UMPD are going to keep an eye on it."



COLTONN ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

8/19/20 WHERE'S THE WEED?

A student reported the noxious odor of marijuana in Craig Hall to UMPD late Wednesday night. When officers responded, they noticed the smell of dry marijuana. When the student who stank up the place was confronted, he said he only smoked it outside, and did not have any paraphernalia

on him. He allowed officers to search the room. After finding no greenery, and no proof the student had smoked any substances, UMPD gave him a warning.

We're all back: Break out the dating apps

EMMA SMITH emma2.smith@umontana.edu
ALEXIS SCHROEDER alexis.schroeder@umontana.edu



CONSTANCE DARLINGTON | MONTANA KAIMIN

Everyone's back on campus, and you know what that means: Tinder, baybee. Social distancing doesn't need to stop you from matching with the rando who sits six feet away from you in anthropology and then never messaging them back. 'Tis the season.

VIRGO (AUG 23-SEP. 22): None of us are surprised, Virgos, by your bios: Sexuality, gender, height, major, hometown, hobby, shoe size, favorite kind of porn, "because details ABSOLUTELY matter!"

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): "Do you have someplace to go for Thanksgiving? My mom would love to meet you," is the *classic* fifth message from a Libra.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): "Tinder is fucking stupid." *proceeds to open Tinder*

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): ~Fun-loving. Free-spirited. Wanderer. Missoula. Let's go on an adventure.~

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Call it "civic duty," call it "weeding out people you disagree with": "#GoVote or swipe left."

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Aquarians, we gotta say, it's impressive that you have zero fear messaging first. We also love the idea of going to a protest on your first date. It's called "testing

the match compatibility."

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): We're not saying you're conspiracy theorists, but we just don't think Tinder is the platform for you to insinuate that our leaders are all lizard people (they are, but that's not the point).

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Ahhhh, who could forget the "here for a good time, not here for a long time..." people? We have a sneaking suspicion, Aries, that you secretly want a relationship, but who tf puts all their cards on the table? Not you.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Taureans, you guys are open-minded, sympathetic, loving, supportive, heroic...until someone disagrees with you. We suggest you stick to presenting those first things in your bio.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Sum up your personality in five words: Bubbly, hard worki... oh wait, what were you just doing?

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): "Have you eaten yet today? Come over, I can cook for you," is a first message only a Cancer could send.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): You only have 500 characters to describe yourself! We know that's a challenge. We know you have layers. Like an onion.

Briefs: The last week in a nutshell

SUSTAINABILITY FEE NOW MANDATORY

The sustainability student fee is now mandatory after a 70% approval rate, according to the ASUM Sustainability Instagram. The money will be used to fund the Kless Sustainability Fund, formerly the Kless Revolving Energy Loan Fund, which has powered projects around campus such as refillable water bottle stations and more bike racks. ASUM Sustainability made plaques over the summer to install by campus projects the fee has funded. The plaques say, "Your Student Sustainability Dollars at Work." (Mazana Boerboom)

TRIO AWARDED \$500,000 GRANT

The TRIO Student Support Program was awarded nearly \$500,000 from a U.S. Department of Education grant, according to a UM News release. The program offers academic and financial support for disadvantaged

college students, including first generation students, low income students and students with disabilities.

In the news release TRIO Director Darlene Samson said the funding for the program is important now more than ever because of the disproportionate effects the COVID-19 pandemic has on disadvantaged students. (MB)

COVID-19 SELF-REPORTING TILE ON UMONTANA APP

The health advisory group created a new tile in the UMontana app this summer. Titled "COVID-19 Questionnaire" the tile asks if you've had any listed symptoms of the virus, and is meant to encourage self-monitoring, Professor and Director of the Center of Public and Health Research Curtis Noonan said.

Noonan also said the tile may have an error on first try, but logging out of the app and then logging back in or deleting it and

redownloading it should fix the problem. A comprehensive list of how to fix errors on the UMontana app can be found on the UM Solutions Center website. (MB)

COVID-19 IN MONTANA UPDATE

Missoula County reported 49 active COVID-19 cases on Monday, Aug. 24, bring-

ing the total active cases in Montana to 1,556 people. Over 6,489 Montana cases have been reported since the start of the pandemic, with 4,842 people considered recovered. Hospitalization rates continue to rise, with over 114 in the state. In Missoula County, three people have died from the virus, and Montana has had a total of 91 deaths. (GS, MB)

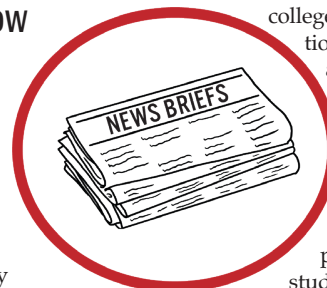
WE ARE HIRING!

No CDL Required
\$12 per hour

UDASH

APPLY TODAY!
udash.org/employment

Flexible. Rewarding. Fun.



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			

Copyright 2020 by The Puzzle Syndicate

ACROSS

- 1 Napoleon's exile isle
- 5 Whittle down
- 9 Burn badly
- 14 Seniors' org.
- 15 Nile wader
- 16 Actor's brief appearance
- 17 Golf club part
- 18 Slapstick dessert
- 20 Assess
- 22 Holiday carol
- 23 Make less dense
- 24 Foundation
- 27 Poignant
- 30 Roofing goop
- 31 Soldier's stint
- 34 Brightly colored
- 35 Piano exercise
- 37 Old character
- 38 New York island
- 40 Trim to fit, maybe
- 41 Much of Chile
- 43 "If all ___ fails..."
- 44 Some transfusions
- 45 Bar stock
- 46 Long-time "Entertainment Tonight" co-host
- 49 Without wasted words
- 51 "The Last ___" (da Vinci)
- 55 Fuzzy fabric
- 56 Fleet of small warships
- 58 Very loud
- 61 Put down, as tiles
- 62 More than plump
- 63 ___ and for all
- 64 Savvy about
- 65 Flamingo, et. al.
- 66 Unwanted growth
- 67 Many an MTV viewer
- 26 Garbo of film
- 28 Stalky veggie
- 29 "Peggy Sue" singer
- 31 Attribute
- 32 Kitchen measure
- 33 Deprive of nourishment
- 36 Experimental flyer
- 39 Added spice to
- 42 Metal refinery
- 47 Countertenor
- 48 Same old, same old
- 50 Have a hunch
- 9 Dickens miser
- 10 Citadel student
- 11 Wave measurement
- 12 "Fantasy Island" prop
- 13 Surname for John or Jane
- 19 Briefly unknown?
- 21 Night light?
- 24 Maze goal
- 25 Rock bottom

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Enforcement key for UM'S Healthy Fall Plan

JACOB OWENS

jacob.owens@umontana.edu

Students who do not follow health guidelines set in the University of Montana's Healthy Fall Plan could face conduct violations.

Administration and staff created UM's Healthy Fall Plan over the summer. The plan includes a number of measures designed to keep students, staff and the community safe during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"There have been people that have worked extremely hard this summer. It's pretty amazing what the faculty and staff have done to make things safe for the students," said Dionne Peterson, a Covid Response Coordinator at UM.

The University will enforce its fall guidelines based on the UM Student Code of Conduct's Community Standards, which require masks to be worn in University buildings. Students or staff with a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask can receive accommodations.

Janzen Froehlich, a resident assistant in Craig Hall, explained that residents who don't wear a mask or follow the two-week, no-guest policy are reported for violating the community standards. The punishment for not following the standards depends on the details of the violation, such as if the standards were violated intentionally or by accident.

Froehlich has not had much trouble with his residents so far.

"People do really respect those rules, at least for the most part, and those who don't, do get a pretty serious offense," Froehlich said.

UM's Director of Communications Paula Short explained that UM has roughly 40 housing units for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or for those who need a place to quarantine, as a result of the Missoula County Health Department's contact tracing. These housing units are in addition to Aber Hall on campus. Aber Hall is not currently housing any students. The UM Housing staff at these units will help students who test positive with meals, laundry and academic advising.

Peterson acknowledged that despite the enforcement efforts UM has in place, there is still an inability to completely control large groups from gathering at parties or other events off campus.

Officials at the University of Notre Dame traced a recent cluster of cases to off-campus parties. The Indiana university paused in-person classes for two weeks because of the recent surge in cases.

Short said UM's threshold for cases is not based on one data point but rather a number of statistics.



University of Montana graduate student Makenzie Sisson teaches the Elements of News Writing class in Don Anderson Hall on Aug. 24, 2020. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

These statistics include UM's capacity for students in quarantine and isolation, its ability to care for these students, testing capacity and the positivity rate, among other factors.

"I don't think it's as simple as 'we're in person or remote.' I think there are some gradients of that," Short said.

She described a number of changes that UM could implement if cases rose, rather than immediately pausing or stopping in-person classes. These possible changes could include measures such as decreasing capacity in public spaces, as the Food Zoo has done.

Short and Peterson both said they hope UM continues to control the spread of COVID-19 and hold on to a semblance of normalcy in the midst of the pandemic.

"We just hope that the students have the mindset that we are all in this together," Peterson said.

Faculty won't be alerted to students' positive COVID tests, with exceptions

MAZANA BOERBOOM

mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

According to university contact tracing policies, which are set with the expectation that students and faculty should never be in close contact with each other if they follow health guidelines, faculty won't be notified if one of their students gets COVID-19.

This policy has some exceptions, in particular if students opt to allow the U to inform professors of a covid infection.

"It's not correct to say just with a blanket statement that professors would not be considered close contacts," professor and director of the Center of Public and Health Research Curtis Noonan said.

Noonan was part of a health advisory group for UM this summer and helped run a contact tracing sub-group. He said the Missoula City-County Health Department makes decisions about contact tracing once someone has tested positive for the virus. They do an investigation to

find every person that student has been within six feet of for at least 15 minutes in the two days before symptom onset.

"One assumption that they would make is that if that student was in a classroom and socially-distanced and everyone was wearing a mask then it's not necessarily true that the individuals in that classroom would be considered close contacts," Noonan said. "But it also doesn't mean that they would definitely be excluded from being contacts. There could be extenuating circumstances where anyone in that classroom could be a close contact."

As a part of the health advisory group, Noonan and other faculty members trained a cohort of student volunteers for the new Griz Health program over UM Online to be able to conduct contact tracing investigations. Those students are eligible to assist in contact tracing through the health department if they choose to apply. The second thing his sub-group did was develop a tile in the UMontana app for a daily COVID-19 symptoms questionnaire to encourage self-monitoring of symptoms.

The chair of the Faculty Senate Chris Palmer is optimistic that students will follow protocols and keep each other and their professors safe. He has a hybrid class, with about two out of three students in-person and the rest remote. He also has an in-person lab.

"I guess that's good news in a lot of ways," Palmer said. "Because it means that we should not feel like we're putting ourselves at undue risk when we go to class or when we teach in a classroom."

Palmer said part of the reason faculty won't automatically get contacted if their student tests positive for COVID-19 is that student health records are private. Students can opt to let the University inform their professors though, which Palmer said is a good idea. If faculty don't know their student is sick, they can't make accommodations.

Palmer said he only had one faculty member tell him they had students come to class without masks, and that everyone else followed safety protocols well.

"I feel safe in the classroom really," Palmer said.

"I'm more concerned about what may be happening outside the classrooms."

He thinks everyone needs to remember their decisions affect everyone on campus, including faculty and staff.

JOURNALISM JOB

KUOW-Public Radio

in Seattle is looking for an editor who knows local news, is a quick and accurate editor, has a commitment to inclusion and teamwork. BA in journalism preferred. Pays up to \$95k to start, DOE.

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



New sentinel testing could help keep campus open

BELLA BUTLER

isabella.butler@umontana.edu

A new University of Montana asymptomatic testing initiative several months in the making is slated to come to fruition this week with the help of student volunteers.

Since the spring, a collaboration of University staff and faculty have been developing a sentinel testing program – form of asymptomatic testing that collects samples from segments of the campus community that are more likely to be in frequent close contact with others. Student volunteers from the new COVID-19-concentrated Griz Health program will guide participating individuals through the self-administered tests, which will be conducted in the UM Health and Medicine office in the University Center.

According to a member of the cohort presenting the sentinel testing, UM's Vice President of Research and Creative Scholarship Scott Whittenburg, the program could potentially launch as soon as Aug. 28.

"This is about identifying potential places in which the COVID could more easily spread and trying to minimize that spread and stopping it before it happens. This is all about keeping campus open," Whittenburg said, adding that this program could be the difference between returning to remote classes and remaining on campus.

Portions of the campus community that come into close contact with others often, such as sororities and fraternities, athletes and on-campus residents, will potentially be offered optional testing opportunities. It has not yet been determined who will select groups to be tested.

According to Whittenburg, this form of testing serves as somewhat of a canary in the coal mine, an early indication of potential community transmission within certain groups. Red flags raised by the sentinel testing will allow the University to proactively focus more attention on the group in question and implement further precautions as needed.

In order to conduct as many tests as possible while maintaining frugality with limited resources, this sentinel testing model will employ a pooling method, where 10 individual samples will be grouped and processed as one test. Each sample will be included in more than one group so the results can later be cross-referenced in order to identify "likely positives." Individuals identified as likely positives will then be referred to the Curry Health Center for symptomatic testing.

Gold Moua, a junior studying human biology on a pre-med track, is a Griz Health volunteer. Moua believes that Griz Health and the sentinel testing is a valuable resource in the effort to keep campus safe and open.

"I just know that college students are very subjective people," she said. "Sometimes, you might be feeling really sick, but you don't want to admit it or you can't really tell."

While gesturing up and down her entire body, Moua said that volunteers will be equipped with layers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and special training at the testing site.

UM Health and Medicine coordinator Lily Apedaile said that by including Griz Health volunteers, many of whom are students interested in or studying health professions, the sentinel testing not only provides an important service to the UM community, but also benefits Griz Health volunteers.



NAT BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

"It allows them to get the training that most of them can't get right now with the health care facilities shut down to any outside visitors coming in," she said.

Griz Health has nearly 50 undergraduate and graduate volunteers.

"A lot of them, they really believe in the cause of trying to keep campus as healthy and open as possible," Apedaile added. Whittenburg said the sentinel testing initiative was born out of research-oriented staff and faculty wanting to support UM during a tumultuous time.

"They knew they had the instruments; they knew they had some level of expertise, and [they] were saying 'We should be able to help in some fashion,'" Whittenburg said.

The approximately 10 members of what Whittenburg refers to as "the testing group" come from colleges and departments across the University, from the Flathead Biological Station to the

Genomics Core Laboratory.

So far, funding and resources have mostly been funneled through Whittenburg's office, but the goal is to obtain further funding from the \$4.8 million in federal aid allocated to the University from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education for the Montana University System. Each test costs about \$10 to complete. The amount of tests completed will depend on how much funding the project is awarded.

The initiative is currently undergoing the process of obtaining Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certification, which requires the creation of a new lab for processing samples that will be up to legal standards.

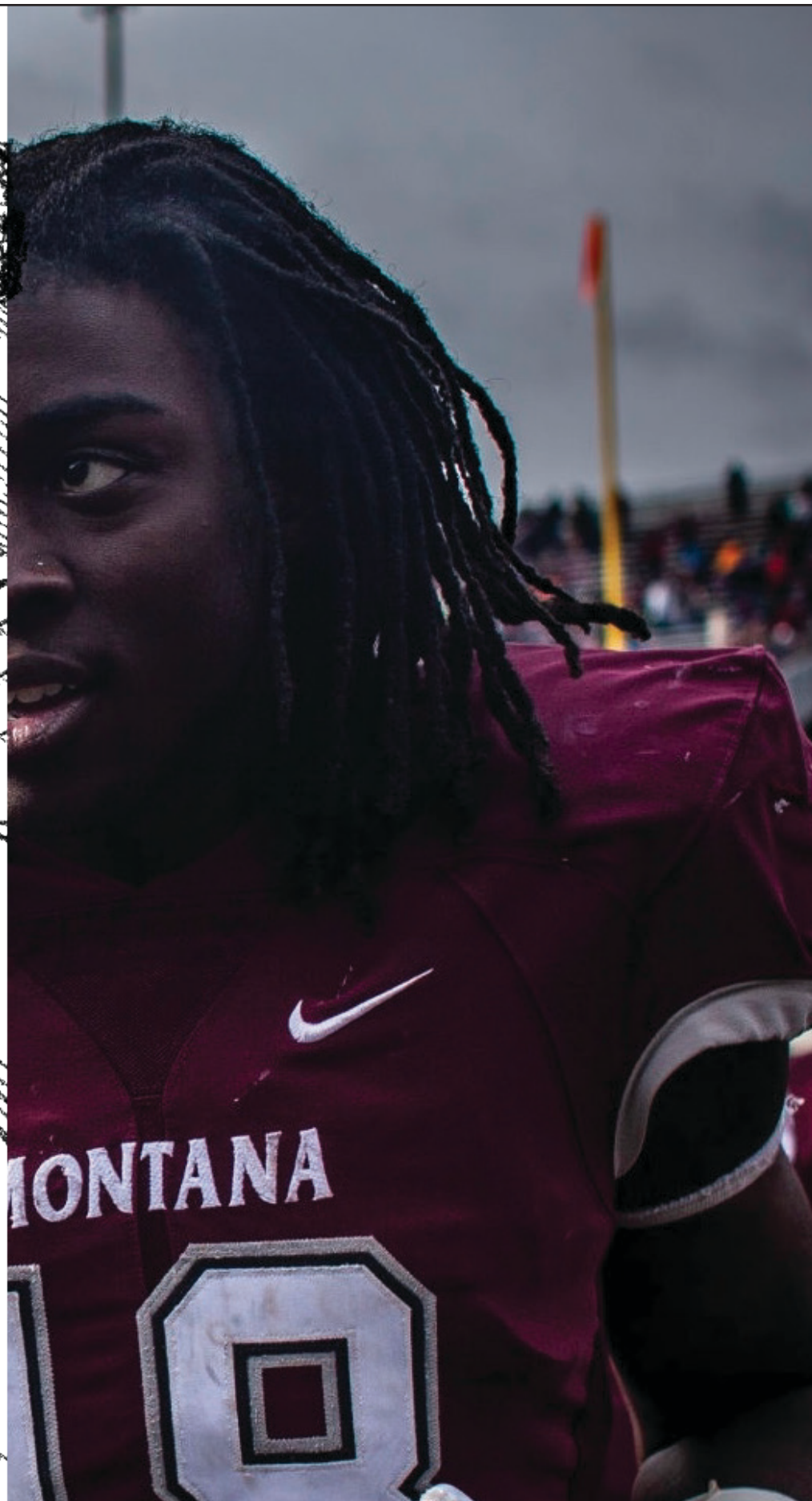
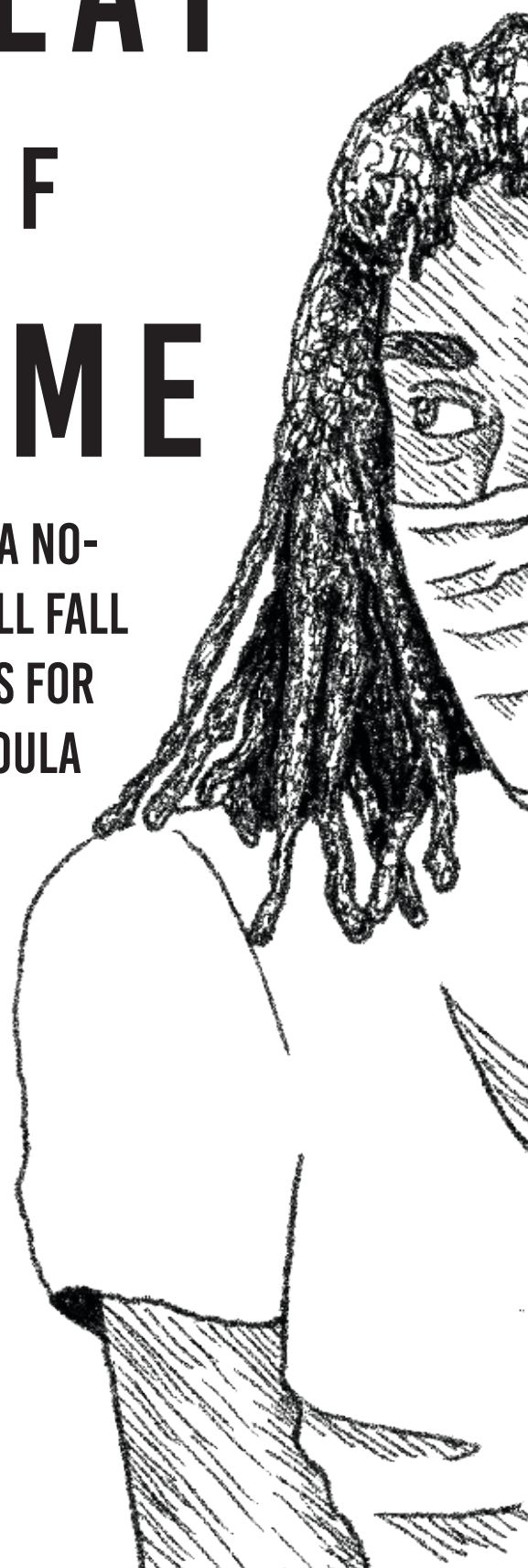
Following the sentinel testing program's release, chosen groups will be notified that the testing will be available to them and can schedule a testing time. Whittenburg said from the time of sample collection, results should be available within 24 hours.

DELAY OF GAME

WHAT A NO-
FOOTBALL FALL
MEANS FOR
MISSOULA

STORY BY
JACK MARSHALL

DESIGN BY
DAYLIN SCOTT



On a recent Monday evening in Missoula, Mike Nugent sat on his patio by his two longtime friends and fellow Griz fans, Luke Alford and Brint Wahlberg. The trio gathered to record one of their many podcasts about Griz football. But this episode of “GrizFanPod” was different.

“Hey, let’s talk some football,” Alford said.

“Why?” Nugent replied. “There’s not going to be any.”

Nugent was referring to the Big Sky Conference’s Aug. 7 decision to postpone its fall football season due to COVID-19. This postponement will have a profound impact on Griz football fans, players, coaches and the city of Missoula as a whole.

It will be the first fall without Montana football since the 1943 season, which was canceled due to World War II. The new goal for the conference is to have a spring football season for the first time ever.

Most schools may be disappointed by the absence of a football season, but for UM it’s a different level of pain. According to UM athletic department Chief Financial Officer Ryan Martin, Griz football generates over \$5 million a year. By comparison, fellow Big Sky Conference schools, Northern Colorado and Southern Utah, both made under \$1 million from football in 2019.

An average of 22,545 fans attended Griz football games in 2019, more than the average attendance of games at upper-division D-1 schools like Nevada, Texas State, Tulsa and Florida Atlantic. UM football had a winning season for 25 straight years, from 1985 to 2011.

The Griz also hold the Football Championship Series (FCS) — the lower division of NCAA division I — records for most playoff appearances in a row, most Big Sky Conference titles in a row and most playoff appearances. UM was the most successful FCS program in the 2000s in terms of wins.

UM’s obsession with football can be seen in head coach Bobby Hauck’s salary. His base pay is \$205,000, but he has the potential to make over \$500,000 in a season if he meets certain goals set by UM: Winning the Big Sky Conference, making it to the FCS semifinals and winning a national championship. For showing up to all media briefings, he makes \$35,000. He gets another \$20,000 for showing up to other public events.

If Hauck attends all media and school events and wins the National Championship, he will make more than UM President Seth Bodnar, whose salary topped \$315,000 in 2019.

When the Big Sky college presidents came together to vote on playing this fall, universities demonstrated the correlation



GrizFanPod co-host Mike Nugent and his son James record their signature introduction to the podcast. The episode was released on March 5th, 2020. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

between football profit and willingness to miss a fall season. Schools like Northern Colorado and Southern Utah, which make under \$1 million dollars on football, were less concerned about postponing the season. The final verdict was a 6-4 vote in

suspected it was coming. I was still pretty deflated,” Alford said.

Alford, Nugent and Wahlberg all attended UM, live in Missoula and have season tickets to Griz football games. Nugent and Wahlberg both grew up in Missoula, while

“I was disappointed, even if I kind of suspected it was coming. I was still pretty deflated,” Alford said.

favor of canceling fall play.

The three podcasters had known the decision to push back UM’s football season to spring was coming, but for fans as loyal as them, the decision still affected them.

“I was disappointed, even if I kind of

Alford got his start in Shelby, Montana, which he likes to refer to as the “Paris” of Montana’s Hi-Line.

Loyal fans like the three podcasters helped UM rank second in the FCS for attendance in 2019. Griz Football became

the only UM sport that did not lose money in 2019.

Without Griz Football, the finances of UM athletics, as well as the city of Missoula, will be in danger. According to a Bureau of Business and Economic Research report conducted in 2016, people from outside Missoula contributed \$2.53 million per home game. Lifelong Griz fan Clayton Gernaat is a perfect example of why, without football, Missoula will suffer.

Gernaat often works 10- to 15-hour days on his ranch in the small town of Conrad, Montana. When fall rolls around, he and his family find a break in their schedule to drive three hours up to Missoula to watch Griz football.

He says that the family spends \$200 to \$300 on tickets per game, plus the cost of eating out at a restaurant in Missoula. The Gernaat family usually attends around seven games a year.

“I don’t think there’s going to be a positive, financially, that will come out of this,” Gernaat said. UM makes at least \$1,000 a

year off of the Gernaats alone, who fill up just a few of the 25,203 seats in Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

The anticipated revenue decrease could cause UM employees to experience pay cuts or furloughs, including Alford, the podcaster, who works as a program coordinator in UM's Department of Health and Human Performance.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see furloughs across the public sector," Alford said. "In my personal zone at the University, we're doing better than we thought, but maybe we'll be asked to give back 5% or something."

If Alford or his colleagues get furloughed, their names will be added to the list of 63 UM employees who were furloughed in April of 2020, and the undis-

time at Boise State, Saddleback Community College and UM, Humphrey had only started three games at the Division I level.

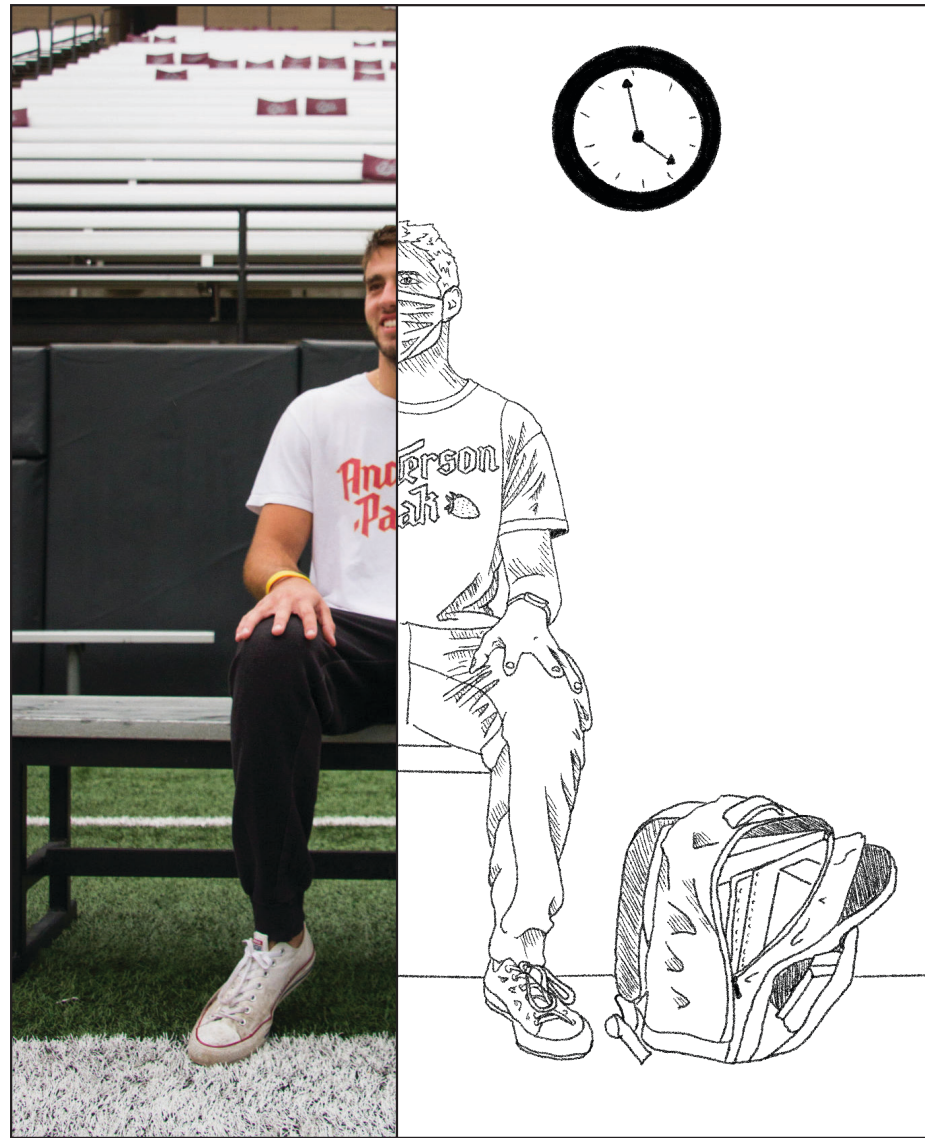
He chose to enroll in grad school at UM and stay on the football team as the lone senior and expected starting quarterback.

"This was definitely my opportunity or window to showcase my abilities," Humphrey said. "Not being able to showcase them was definitely a blindside shot."

Not every player has stayed with UM football after graduation like Humphrey did. In 2019, UM kicker Bradon Purdy left the team after graduating with a year left of eligibility to enter the workforce. He was the most accurate kicker in Griz football history, making 28 of his 30 field goal attempts.

When Purdy left UM's football team,

"I'd go out there and help build a dome if that meant we'd get to play," Humphrey said. "Or a bubble, like the NBA is doing."



Redshirt junior Cam Humphrey sits on the sideline in Washington Grizzly Stadium after practice. Humphrey joined the Griz as a backup quarterback after spring camp 2019. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

closed number who were laid off Aug. 19, the first day of the 2020 fall semester.

Along with the UM and the Missoula economy, UM football players face their own uncertainty. If no 2021 spring season occurs because of the postponement, the seniors will still have eligibility and remain on the roster. The NCAA only permits a roster of 85 players, so incoming recruits may not be able to join a roster, or current players on the roster will be cut.

If the NCAA does not increase roster sizes, teams will be forced to cut players or not pick up incoming recruits. The podcasters pointed out that teams may have to grayshirt more athletes. (Grayshirting refers to when athletes wait a semester before enrolling at a university.)

"Justin Green (UM's recruiting coordinator) and Hauck have one hell of a job cut out for them," Wahlberg said.

Under Hauck, players have often graduated in the fall. Once their football season is over, their college career is over, too. In 2019, there were 16 listed seniors on UM's football roster, eleven of whom graduated in the fall. Many UM football players will graduate and face the decision of staying to play football or leaving UM to pursue a career.

UM redshirt senior quarterback Cam Humphrey graduated in the spring of 2020 and faced the decision. After spending

everyone expected a fall season. Current UM football seniors now only have the remaining hope of a spring season in 2021. But even if a spring season does happen, it's unlikely there will be playoffs.

Winning a national championship is the ultimate goal of the football team and fans. If there are no playoffs in spring 2021, Wahlberg fears players might not be motivated to play.

"If the ultimate goal in 2021 is to win eight (conference) football games and get a pat on the back, it's going to be fascinating to watch," he said.

He also expressed concern that if Griz fans realize they can go a year without football, they may not feel the need to buy season tickets when it returns.

Behind the effort of motivating the players is Hauck, who won't be coaching college football in the fall for the first time since 1988. In a press conference on Aug. 7, Hauck shared his plans.

"Football is not over, football is delayed," he said. "We're like the military. We believe in training. That's why we're better than the people we go against, because we train hard. We train harder, we train better."

He said he'd always be recruiting for the Griz, because recruiting is a year-round job.

Redshirt senior wide receiver Samuel Akem answered questions at the Aug. 7 press conference alongside Hauck, UM linebacker Jace Lewis and UM Athletic Director Kent Haslam.

When asked what the football team's plans were for the fall, "We just really need to practice patience," he said. "We will be ready when that time comes."

Humphrey showed that Hauck has excelled in motivating his troops.

"The future is really foggy right now for everybody, short and long term, but what I do know is that we're gonna prepare day-in and day-out to be ready," he said.

Kent Haslam, the athletic director, appeared at the press conference on the tails of a Big Sky Conference call.

"This decision by the conference wasn't made without a lot of deliberation and a lot of discussion," he said. "I've seen too

much of my AD (Athletic Director) colleagues over Zoom calls over the last three months."

He said UM will not participate in any non-conference games in 2020. In 2019, Oregon paid the Grizzlies \$650,000 to play in a non-conference game. In 2020, UM didn't schedule any big payout games like the one against Oregon, but its fellow conference teams will miss out on some similar opportunities.

Eastern Washington was set to receive \$750,000 from Florida, UM's rival. Montana State was expecting a \$675,000 payout from Utah. Sacramento was lined up to make \$625,000 on a trip to play Washington.

On their most recent episode, the Griz-FanPod members jokingly brainstormed a way for Griz football to resume in 2020. North Dakota State, James Madison,



The empty Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Friday, Aug. 21 **MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Montana State and Montana could all meet together in a "bubble," the men joked.

The idea of a bubble is based on the format recently used by the National Basketball Association. In this set-up, all of the teams are required to stay on a closed campus at Disneyland and are tested regularly. Visitors aren't allowed in, and players who exit the bubble must be quarantined.

As of Aug. 19, five weeks into play, none of the NBA athletes in the bubble had tested positive for the virus. If there were to be a bubble for UM and other FCS football teams, the podcasters suggested, fans could pay-per-view the games.

"I'd go out there and help build a dome if that meant we'd get to play," Humphrey said. "Or a bubble, like the NBA is doing."

But testing a whole football team for COVID-19 is certainly expensive and, as Alford pointed out, students at UM can only be tested if they are showing symptoms.

"I think it would be viewed as treating the athletes differently than the regular students," he said.

With the clear obstacle of the price of

testing for COVID-19, as well as the scarcity of tests and the time required to get results, it is very uncertain when UM football will return. Alford said that he believes a vaccine will help him return to his seats. Nugent quickly pointed out that, even if a vaccine comes, football will be different.

"If people don't feel comfortable going to the games, that's going to be a problem," he said.

Aside from game attendance, Wahlberg believes a lot of things Missoulians find standard may change, especially tailgating. If stadiums do open for fans, he wondered, would masses of fans still gather and share appetizers?

Along with the potential cancellation of tailgating, Wahlberg also realized that he, along with others, still has the tailgate spot he purchased at Washington Grizzly Stadium. If still allowed, he decided that he and his fellow podcasters may just have a cookout in the empty tailgating zone.

Despite the postponement of the football season, the band has played on at UM. The marching band continues to practice in the stadium, as if no one told its mem-

bers there is no fall season, Wahlberg said jokingly.

All other fall sports at UM have been postponed as well. The Grizzly Scholarship Association recently held a fundraiser that gained over \$37,000 for athlete scholarships.

Some Griz fans are finding other ways to stay busy this fall.

Wahlberg said he will golf until the Montana weather no longer allows him to. Nugent has decided to do some fall camping. Alford joked that he would climb the chain link fence around Washington Grizzly Stadium and stare at the empty facility.

Gernaat, the rancher from Conrad, plans to hunt a little more in the fall. Hauck will continue to host practices with his team while still allowed.

Along with their other fall endeavors, the GrizFanPod will still record episodes. There won't be football in 2020, but there is still a large UM football team to talk about.

Five quarterbacks are on the 2020 roster and none of them have been named as a starter. UM linebacker Jace Lewis was named the Preseason Big Sky Conference

Defensive MVP. Six players from UM's roster were on the Big Sky Preseason All-Conference Team.

Many transfers have arrived at UM in 2020 from schools like Arizona, Oregon State and Louisville. Incoming freshmen will now have more time to get acclimated to the Griz Football culture and style of play.

The podcasters explored many of these facets of the Griz football team in an evening recording session, especially focusing on the potential growth Griz fans may see.

"There are guys on the roster who will play better in the spring than they would've in the fall," Wahlberg said.

What would the podcasters do to get Griz football back? Wahlberg said he'd get a toaster-sized tattoo while Alford said he'd move to Cut Bank, Montana. Nugent, on the other hand, had a more philosophical answer.

"I would do a ton to have my son's five-day school week back, and to have him have a normal life before I would do anything for football," he said.

Pantzer hall transformed by renovation

GRIFFEN SMITH

griffen.smith@umontana.edu

A new black aluminum panelling covered the years-old yellow stucco walls outside of Pantzer Hall this fall, as UM Housing continues the multimillion dollar renovation to the dormitory. The \$4.6 million summer project has so far reshaped all but the third floor of the building and some common areas.

"This project was pretty difficult, we had to do a tremendous amount of work in a short period of time," school architect and project manager Jameel Chaudhry said. "When we started the project off in May, we weren't sure if construction would happen."

UM Housing and Facilities services dedicated the summer of 2020 to implementing the largest dormitory upgrade since 1995, the year Pantzer was built. According to Chaudhry, the new changes are part of an effort to keep up with the modernization of dormitories across the country, as well as giving UM the ability to compete against private sector student housing.

The University of Montana first built Pantzer Hall in the summer of 1995. The residence hall features four-room suites, each one equipped with a living room, kitchenette and two bathrooms. Chaudhry said the building was also the first structure on campus to follow the guidelines of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

The new project replaced furniture in bedrooms and study lounges. All of Pantzer was also repainted with a new color scheme of beige and gray and the project replaced the linoleum floors and different colored carpets in the hallway on each floor.

Updates were also done to the bathrooms, which now have more cabinets and new sinks. The housing department added new appliances like fridges and microwaves, although some of the appliances' shipments have been delayed.

The fourth floor wall is now covered in metal plating, and workers flattened a raised concrete semi-circle north of the building for more walking space.

UM Housing Director Sandra Curtis said the project was able to start ahead of time because of the early departure of students due to the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring. Though the project started early, the moved up fall semester made it impossible to finish every part before classes started.

"All along we knew this was a big timeline

to actually get everything we planned done," Curtis said. "After the fall semester ends, all the contractors will come back and finish the third floor and also finish up stuff in the basement and first floor."

The project fell into uncertainty after Montana Gov. Steve Bullock mandated a statewide stay-at-home order on March 27, but the essential worker list included construction and general contractor work. Contractors worked inside Pantzer to renovate the building. Chaudhry noted he was concerned about workers testing positive for the coronavirus while on the job.

"If a positive test came in then they would have to shut down for at least a few days," Chaudhry said.

Luckily, no worker came in sick or tested positive for the virus while the renovation was in progress, Chaudhry said. He credited this to workers for spacing out while working.

The contractors finished all but the third floor and exterior work just a week before students moved in to start the fall semester. New freshman and Pantzer Hall resident Cathleen Doisher, said she did not know if she would be able to move in on time with all the renovations.

"I got a lot of emails telling us we might not be able to move in until the latest day because they didn't know if it was going to be completely renovated," Doisher said.

Doisher eventually moved in on Saturday, Aug. 15, around the same time many other students at UM moved in. She said she loves the new changes to the building.

"It has hardwood floors, which are dark, our closet space is hardwood as well, and our bathrooms are really nice," Doisher said. "It is really clean."

Money for the renovation came as a part of new retail bonds from September 2019. Out of the \$146 million addition, \$62 million was designated to improve on-campus infrastructure.

The Pantzer project finished out at a total of \$4.6 million, which Chaudhry said was slightly over budget. The housing department asked for more funds from the UM administration over the summer, which were approved.

The campus has not seen major housing changes since upgrades to Miller Hall in 1995, which added fifth floor single suites and extended the building to feature the first three-room pods on campus.

UM-issued bonds also funded Miller's expansion, according to a September 1995 Kaimin article.



New furniture sits inside a freshly-renovated Pantzer Hall suite on the first floor of the building. UM spent spring semester and the summer working on renovations in the Residence Hall and will continue through fall semester and winter break. SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN

CCR
Child Care Resources
www.ChildCareResources.org

Finding and paying for quality child care just got easier.

This project is funded in whole or in part under a Contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. Total cost of this publication is \$252, 100% of which is federal monies.

Beginning

MONTANA DPHHS

Apex Legends Season 6 defeats the point

JAMES BRADLEY

james22bradley@gmail.com

Respawn Entertainment has released a new character for Apex Legends Season 6, completely breaking with the game's core concept. Movement is supposed to matter in Apex (played on PC, Xbox and Playstation). It doesn't anymore.

Enter Rampart, a bubblegum-chewing, heavy-machine-gun-wielding defensive character. She sets up shields that reduce incoming damage while boosting outgoing damage. Her ultimate ability is to place a mounted machine gun named Sheila. If a player using Sheila hits all of their shots, they can take a team from full armor and health to the next lobby in a little over three seconds.

The counter to Sheila is the same as any other machine gun nest: grenades. Season 2 made grenades worthless.

Respawn has managed to make professional play even more boring with the addition of Rampart. Professional teams wouldn't engage with each other until the last play area before Season 6. Everyone would make a dash to the middle and hope to survive.

Now, professional tournaments will likely be decided by who happens to set their turret in the right spot to mow down

scores of enemy players before they are in turn mowed down by another machine gun nest.

Season 6 added some hefty weapon changes as well. The R-99, previously the strongest weapon in the game, was sequestered into air drops. The Volt-SMG, which uses rare renergy ammunition, replaced it. In order to cage the R-99, Respawn decided to free the Devotion LMG to once again shred through opponents.

Players can now craft a rotating series of items, which is useless in a game where items are littered on the ground like cigarette butts on a highway.

Respawn tweaked some characters to attempt to balance the game. The highlights are in the recon class, which spots enemies. Respawn noticed that players picked their loveable robot, Pathfinder, far more than other recon characters. So they made Bloodhound. Bloodhound's ultimate ability now allows them to scan faster and more often, effectively letting the team see through walls. The more kills Bloodhound gets, the longer the ability lasts. Crypto, who is now stronger, is more of a mixed bag.

Crypto is more of a mixed bag. His drone can now instantly respawn teammates and is much stronger, but also easier to hit. Respawn also made his ultimate ability to slow team-



CONTRIBUTED BY EA.COM

mates down again.

Apex Legends continues to make itself less viable for competitive play while simultaneously removing the elements that made understanding the game's mechanics an exciting and rewarding challenge. New players who happen to be in a better spot are now rewarded for hiding and spraying digital lead at anything that moves, while more experienced players are punished for not wanting to stare at walls. Respawn seems intent on killing this game, and it's doing a great job of it.

The Front Bottoms make pop-punk that isn't quite pop-punk on "In Sickness & in Flames"

MEGHAN JONAS

meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

I don't like The Front Bottoms, the band made up of vocalist and guitarist Brian Sella and drummer Mat Uychich. The Front Bottoms can be described as a satirical band that tries their best to be just bad enough to grab listeners' attention, but not so bad that they'll get ripped apart by critics.

But their latest album, "In Sickness & in Flames" might have changed my mind. There are still songs that feel like a joke, but the record as a whole shows the growth and maturity of a band that someone could still describe as pop-punkers.

The duo has gotten a grip on their storytelling, which used to be relatively nonexistent. None of their songs are lyrical masterpieces, but there is a unique difference between each track. This record follows different threads of the same angst, pulling at each one just enough to flesh it out without sounding redundant.

But some of these lyrics are still totally nonsensical. If you need proof, look no further than "montgomery forever." Maybe the whole song is a metaphor, but it really just sounds like the tangent of someone who was really stoned. The band says they aren't on

any drugs at the end of the track. Sounds like something someone who was high would say.

"In Sickness & in Flames" the band wisely expands from being a frontman-led show. The mix of pop-punk instrumentation, including heavy drum lines and to-the-point guitar, combine with understated vocals to make the record feel grown-up without sounding over-produced. And in an era in which bands focus on Instagram images and technical flares, it's a relief to listen to one that isn't trying too hard to be hip with the times.

The love songs that float in and out of this record accomplish a feat in and of itself: being sappy without sounding like it. "The truth" is wistful and loving, with soaring choruses and blissed-out harmonies. It feels raw, almost like it was taken straight from a love letter, but one that was still jotted down over text.

The Front Bottoms feel heartbreak on top of tried-and-true anxiety and newfound love. Sadness quickly turns into anger and resentment, with lyrics about crashing a girlfriend's car on "montgomery forever," before going back to an aching longing that spreads across the record. It's like listening to someone go through all the stages of grief in five-minute increments. It's emotional whiplash.

Eternal adolescence is all over this record. The band dives deep into a longing for



CONTRIBUTED BY NME.COM

the past and disenfranchisement with the present. It's almost as if the band wishes they could go back to being moody teens, where all they had to worry about was their friends and school, not friends/school/work/pandemics/fascism – the constant melancholy mood has now become a personality trait.

There's something that The Front Bottoms still haven't gotten right, though. And that's deciding if they want frontman Brian Sella to sing or speak. It's fine to experiment if both

sound decent, but it's clear which one comes out on top. It's that seeming, communal lack of confidence in Sella's singing abilities that makes the band feel amateur, even though the rest of the record proves otherwise.

I thought I would have to rip this record apart: finding more fodder for my bad jokes about bad bands. I'll still make jokes, but now they'll just be about bad lyrics, not about a bad band.

Arts

ZACC hosts stop motion animation camp under COVID-19 constraints

CLINT CONNORS

clint.connors@umontana.edu

Morgan Smith and Makenna Dorugherty had constructed their film set: An army of miniature bears with bow ties battling cats in a cardboard canopy.

Supplies like crayons, paper, scissors, figurines and candy filled the room's tables and shelves.

The little cats were inspired by the heroes of Erin Hunter's "Warriors" book series, which Smith and Dorugherty are both fans of.

And they knew just who their cats' enemies should be.

"The only thing you can find to be a threat is bears in bowties," Smith said.

Smith and Dorugherty were two of the eight children attending a stop-motion animation camp at the Zootown Arts Community Center on Wednesday, Aug. 19.

Stop-motion animation involves taking successive pictures of still objects in slightly different positions. This makes the objects appear to move on screen. The process has been used to bring movies like "Chicken Run" and "Coraline" to life.

Heather Stockton, the camp's instructor and director of operations at the center, said doing stop-motion allowed the children to learn the methods behind both filmmaking and material-based art.

"God, I can't gush about it enough," she said.

The kids had been planning their miniature movies since Monday.

"You can make whatever kind of video you want," said participant Marshall Farmer. His story followed a ninja accidentally throwing a grenade instead of a smoke bomb.

Connor Macholz, meanwhile, was creating a crocodile chase out of LEGOs. He became interested in stop motion animation while quarantining during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Macholz had several videos he had made on his phone. One showed a LEGO car swerving into a wall and bursting into flames.

"I've been bored," he said. "So I decided to try that."

Taylor Clough, who was helping at the event, said she was inspired by the children's work.

"They're so open and free with what they create," she said. "The way they're thinking about things and making things is so exciting."

Stockton said that all of the stop-motion



Zootown Arts Community Center stop motion animation student, Clairra, concentrates on drawing a cupcake for a later animation during the beginning of the ZACC's stop-motion animation class on Wednesday, Aug. 19. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

films would be edited into one YouTube video. It would be posted, she said, at the end of the week.

The kids were taking turns contributing to a candy-filled intro scene for the final YouTube video. Stockton said this allowed them to collaborate while still maintaining social distance for COVID-19.

The center's website lists the event as a collaboration with the Roxy Film Academy. However, Stockton said the center had to host the event alone due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"We still love the Roxy," she said. "Once COVID is over, we're going to be partnering up again."

Stockton said that summer camps have required masks and plenty of hand sanitizing this year. Most camps have been limited to 10 participants.

The center has had different challenges dealing with adult and child attendees during the pandemic. They've had to remind adults more often about wearing masks. Meanwhile, they've had a harder time keeping children six feet apart.



ZACC Director of Operations and Stop-Motion Animation Camp instructor Heather Stockton glances up at her students while reminding them to continue their social distancing practices during a class on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 19. That day's class activities included drawing and creating an animation class with students' favorite treats. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

However, she said she was proud of the stop motion students' ability to help each other while following COVID-19 guidelines.

"I have not heard a single comment about their mask," she said. "Maybe I'm just spoiled, but they've been really fantastic."

Executive director Kia Liszak said the center closed before Gov. Steve Bullock's executive order shut down all non-essential businesses in March. This allowed the team to gather information and plan for the future.

She said the center reopened in phases and has been cautious. The summer camps' capacities did not rise from 10 to 50 during Phase 2, despite the Health Department suggesting they could.

Liszak said that the center was prepared to move future events online if need be.

"The lesson we've learned since COVID started is to be flexible," she said. "My job has really required a new level of creativity."

The center's opening art gallery usually attracts about 1,000 people. This year, it attracted 30.

"We're looking at much reduced participation," Liszak said. "But I think the goal is to just continue to live in this new world as much as possible."

Liszak said that artists can still find ways to promote their work during COVID-19. The center, she said, sent 150 postcards to community members, so they could cover them with art and send them back.

She said artists also have an opportunity to use online platforms to stay active.

"The good thing about artists is that they are creative thinkers," she said. "When we're on the edge of despair, creativity and art is what gets us through."

TOP: ZACC stop-motion animation instructor Heather Stockton helps a student, Wylie, create an animation about a favorite dessert.

SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN

BOTTOM: ZACC stop-motion animation instructor Heather Stockton uses a unicorn puppet and sprinkles from Big Dipper to create the introduction of an animation for her students. The class used recycled materials from previous ZACC classes for most of their animations.

SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN



UM lacrosse team holds out hope for Griz/Cat matchup

MARIAH THOMAS

mariah.thomas@umontana.edu

Members of the University of Montana men's lacrosse team stood 6 feet apart from one another in a circle to start off their pre-season practice at Dornblaser Field on Aug. 19. The coaches stood in the center of the circle wearing masks.

"This fall, just being able to train is tremendous," said the team's head coach Tucker Sargent.

While other UM sports teams are cutting down on practice hours and dealing with postponed seasons, the men's lacrosse team is proceeding with their fall off-season practices as normal, and there is still hope for a Cat-Griz lacrosse game this fall.

The lacrosse team is part of the Men's Collegiate Lacrosse Association. According to Sargent, the MCLA has yet to give any indication about whether there will be a lacrosse season as normal, given that it is a spring sport. For now, the team is continuing with their off-season training, practicing three times a week.

"I'm just looking forward to being back with the boys and meeting a bunch of new kids and a bunch of new freshmen," junior Dylan Nelson, a business management and administration major, said.

Usually, the team hosts an annual Montana Lacrosse Shootout tournament, and scrimmages with teams from other states in the fall off-season. According to Sargent, these scrimmages will not be happening this fall, in accordance with health directions and risk management from the city and county health departments, as well as from UM and Associated Students of the University of Montana.

The team hopes that it will still get to scrimmage with Montana State University's lacrosse team during the off-season, despite coronavirus restrictions. "There's still some hope we can get things going with MSU, since they're in-state," Sargent said.

Sargent also said he is excited about how the team is looking so far. "We had a great turnout. We were able to bring in 15 or 16 freshmen who are on campus, which is a big win. I had a lot of communication with players and families over the summer," he said.

Asher Holland, a freshman forestry major on the team this year, said that it feels good to be playing right now. "We're one of the only teams I know of that's

playing," he said.

Through the fall and off-season, Sargent said that the team will follow guidelines from health officials about wearing masks, social distancing and contact tracing. The procedures recommended by health officials were on view during practice. Coaches were masked, players who were not wearing helmets were masked as well, and there was hand sanitizer available for the players and coaches to use on breaks.

Off the field, Sargent said that he and other coaches are reiterating UM's policies about staying safe, not going to large parties and social distancing.

"It all sounds good until you've got a weekend," Sargent said, regarding players' conduct off the field.

University of Montana's president, Seth Bodnar, emphasized the importance of student cooperation with the community in an email to the student body on Friday: "I'm asking everyone to make smart choices this weekend." He asked students to partake in activities that mitigate the risk of coronavirus spread in their free time.

"We just try to get them to understand the gravity and importance of the situation, although most of them understand that already," said Sargent.

According to the Missoula City-County Public Health Department, Missoula had 53 active coronavirus cases as of Sunday, 17 of which are in the age range of 20-29 years old.

The lacrosse team is not naive about the coming months. "I think it's going to be tough considering our season is in the spring, and soccer and football got moved to the spring as well, so practicing or finding a place to practice might be the most difficult part," Nelson said.

Last year, the season was cut short when students were sent home at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

"I'm just hoping to get a full year of lacrosse," said Holland.

One of the games that was postponed from last spring was Cat-Griz. But even amidst the pandemic, the team's main goal for the season hasn't changed. "It'd be great to beat the Bobcats," Nelson said.



University of Montana lacrosse players fight for the ball during practice on Aug. 21, 2020 at Dornblaser Stadium. ALEXIS SCHROEDER | MONTANA KAIMIN



University of Montana lacrosse head coach Tucker Sargent at practice on Aug. 21, 2020.

ALEXIS SCHROEDER | MONTANA KAIMIN



Book an appointment today!
asumlegal@mso.umt.edu

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

