

# The Kainui.

## 'The spirit of Montana'

A look back through Grizzly homecomings

Story by  
Griffen Smith



**7 New frat in town**

**13 Backseat monologues**

**14 Grizzlies hit the rink**

Cover photo by Lynn Israel

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

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THE GARAGE: SE 3 EP 4



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Stop posting on Yik Yak, start supporting each other

Last week, the University of Montana experienced a student’s death on campus. The news impacted many of us. Last week, Curry Health Center counselors worked around the clock to offer students resources. The University sent out a message offering support to students and addressing the situation. At the Kaimin, we had a long discussion about how to cover that event before publishing a story that dispensed the facts and listed resources for our peers.

What helped no one last week were the rumors spread on the anonymous social media app, Yik Yak. More often than not, Yik Yak is an app known for funny content, with students posting goofy, harmless messages. It’s all centered on where you’re located, too, so it’s like a loosely regulated message board for campuses.

But, on the morning of this event, before the University notified students, people on Yik Yak were broadcasting their speculations. Some of those posts offered details of the event. In journalism, that’s something we specifically learn not to publish

when covering this kind of trauma. This wasn’t the first time we’ve seen hurtful rumors spread on the anonymous app. Other unsubstantiated rumors or threats have cropped up on Yik Yak before — both at the University of Montana and elsewhere.

In fact, Yik Yak stopped operating back in 2017 because a number of campuses experienced bullying and threats from the app, according to Inside Higher Ed. The app came under new ownership in Feb. 2021, and relaunched last August.

We understand college students gossip. In fact, journalism originated from people’s desire to know what’s going on in their communities. On a college campus, where we’re in close quarters and so much of what happens to others impacts us, gossip is simply part of life.

In an instance like this, however, gossip can be incredibly harmful. It can spread misinformation, it’s insensitive to those who are directly impacted, it threatens peoples’ privacy and it can act as a trigger for those who’ve experienced trauma before.

The University can’t regulate Yik Yak. People can report harmful posts, but if they’re within Yik Yak’s content policy, the app has full discretion to leave those posts up for everyone to read.

The app’s Community Guardrails direct users not to spread rumors or gossip, but the app also relies on users to “downvote” messages to have them taken down. If a message gets five negative vote points, it automatically gets taken down.

But the messages regarding the event on campus last week had nearly 100 upvotes. People can report a message, but Yik Yak doesn’t know what’s going on on our campus. We students can understand the weight our words have given the circumstances, but Yik Yak’s algorithm may not.

We want to make sure that our fellow students understand that just because they’re saying something in an anonymous manner, it doesn’t mean that what they’re saying doesn’t impact real people. Your words hold weight, even when your name isn’t attached to them.

In an email last week, Vice Provost for Campus Life Leslie Webb called on UM students to “please offer kindness, support, encouragement and grace to one another as we continue to process this difficult event.”

We fully agree with the vice provost’s message. This campus has the ability to be an incredibly empathetic one if our peers choose to offer each other support. We’ve seen that on social media, too.

The Kaimin wants to call on our peers to continue to be kind to each other, and to think before you post — both as our campus continues to process this challenging event, and in our day to day lives. It makes a difference.

*If you are in crisis and need immediate help, dial 988.*

**Like it? Hate it? Let us know.**  
Email us your opinions at [editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com).



Kickin’ back with Switchback

Skye Haman, keyboardist for the local Bozeman band “Hey, Ily!,” sings to a crowd in front of University of Montana’s Main Hall at the Switchback Music Festival on Sept. 16. Switchback Records, a student-run record label, hosted the festival with three bands in the lineup. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

### SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

#### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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







# UM looking to evolve mental health options on campus

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The University of Montana administration, in conjunction with Curry Health Center and the Student Advocacy Resource Center, has been looking into ways to improve students' mental health through campus resources.

UM put greater emphasis on student mental health this year after alarming statistics from a campus-wide mental health survey published last semester. Sixty-two percent of students reported they experienced hopelessness and social isolation.

The 2021 UM National College Health Assessment, which surveyed 1,320 students, also found a 15% increase in students feeling nervous and hopeless most of the time, and an 8% increase in students reporting moderate-to-severe levels of psychological distress since March 2020.

"It is a health issue that is contributing to the mental health and well being of our students," Kayli Julius, wellness director at Curry Health Center, said "We haven't really taken a look at that very well."

Although mental health reform was a major point of focus for the University before the school year began, it became even more pressing for UM in response to the death of a student in Aber Hall last week.

Counseling services were dispatched throughout certain floors of Aber Hall on Sep. 13 to help students contend with the news.

Leslie Webb, vice provost of campus life, sent out a campus-wide message on Sep. 14. This email detailed the resources available to students in moments of crisis and for general mental health care through the Curry Health Center. It shared how UM Housing, the Office for Student Success and Curry are working to help those impacted.

Procrastination, stress, anxiety and depression are four major factors the University believes contributes significantly to hindering academic achievement, learning and student retention, according to the 2021 UM Student Mental Health Summary Report.

These numbers have been alarmingly high since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

The University is looking to increase

support for students throughout the school year, and it's trying to destigmatize the use of support options already available on campus.

UM created a new well-being webpage this semester to centralize access to resources for students and faculty. Administrators also launched



KATRINA SABOL | MONTANA KAIMIN

wellness days each Wednesday rather than just a couple per semester like in years past.

The University has counseling services and medical appointments that can be used by students through Curry Health Center. Initial counseling consultations are free

of charge, then \$20 per each individual session.

The 11-person department of both counselors and interns serves 10,000 students, which has become increasingly challenging as demand for services has increased since the pandemic.

"It's not for everyone. Not everyone wants to meet with a counselor for their mental health," Julius said. "It's just a preference on how they want support."

The wellness department is currently trying to pilot a program that would embed Master's of social work students into specific college departments to help students have more accessibility to support and alleviate stress from faculty.

The program plays off the notion that students often go to their specific college adviser or professors for support when struggling instead of seeking out the wellness department because they have too much on their plate.

This leads to students waiting to access services until they are in the "crisis zone," which is not ideal for students or counseling staff, according to Julius.

The Associated Students of the University of Montana is also targeting student mental health accessibility. ASUM senator Jorgia Hawthorne proposed a referendum last spring that looks to lower student counseling costs.

"\$20 isn't exactly pocket change for some people, so we were trying to find a way to get rid of that cost," Hawthorne said.

Curry Health Center sends SARC a portion of the money earned through the appointments, as SARC is currently reliant on their funding, according to Hawthorne. Hawthorne's referendum, which did not technically pass during ASUM's last election due to turnout being below 12%, garnered more than 80% support from the electorate and would partially fund SARC through its fee.

The referendum would propose an additional \$30 fee per semester that would help fund SARC and possibly make counseling free for students and add an additional counselor to Curry's staff.

This referendum must be approved by the Board of Regents. Hawthorne will present the fee at its spring meeting in hopes it will go into effect next school year.

# The frat for non-frat guys: Alpha Tau Omega seeks chapter at UM

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Charlie Passey never considered himself a frat guy. He wasn't interested in Greek life, nor did he think Greek life would be interested in him.

So Passey was surprised when one day around the first week of classes, a man at an Alpha Tau Omega tent called out to him. Passey was trying to look extra unapproachable; he thought hunching over and hiding in the crowd would work. When the recruiter looked dead at him and waved him down — well, Passey just wasn't expecting it.

When Passey listened to the recruiter's pitch, the parts that hooked him were the opportunities for self-improvement and community service. It's supposedly what Alpha Tau Omega is all about, ATO recruiter Ryan Makowski said.

The fraternity was founded in 1865 after the Civil War to help heal the wounds between the North and the South, according to the official ATO website. It claims to use Christian-based values to help young men develop leadership skills and individual strength through community service, Makowski said.

The University of Montana's ATO chapter has closed and reopened. It made its last mark on campus in 2002 when recruitment hit a pitfall, Makowski said. There are no plans for an ATO house in its current revival. Most of the efforts are focused on making sure ATO brothers are involved on campus, like working with the food pantry and engaging with clubs. The new frat is also making sure students know ATO isn't here for partying, like Grizzlies might assume.

"We're trying to change the culture of the frat culture," Makowski said. "We're looking for guys who have never thought about Greek life, or never viewed themselves as a fraternity man."

On Friday, Makowski set up his table in the University Center, with a sign encouraging donations to the UM Food Pantry resting on top of his blue American-flag-toned ATO tablecloth. He planned to knock on doors over the weekend to see what he could scrounge from friendly neighbors, he said.

Community service and charity work are not just one-time things for future brothers of ATO, Makowski said. The national network of ATO requires each chapter create a signature philanthropy event. Mid-September may be raising donations to the food pantry, but future events will focus around a topic of the chapter's choosing. Makowski fondly remembers his chapter at Grand Valley State University in Michigan had members with multiple scle-

rosis, and their philanthropy event centered around raising money for national MS support organizations.

ATO is also about preparing students for life beyond college. For Passey, one benefit that sold him was a leadership personality test called the Birkman Assessment. It analyzes what motivates and impasses someone, as well as what their critical flaws may be. He hasn't taken it yet, but Passey said he saw it as a concrete way to improve himself.

"Frats are about drinking and doing stupid shit," Passey said. "But steel sharpens steel. If I can surround myself with people who want to further themselves, I'll go farther."

But ATO isn't selling everyone. Some passersby commented they thought it was just another frat. Others said all sororities and fraternities claim to develop leadership skills, but few make it a priority. There is a present anti-Greek life sentiment alive in many UM students, highlighted by the @abolishgreeklifeumt Instagram page.

"Greek life is rooted in a history of exclusion, rape culture and especially homophobia," one of the page administrators told the Kaimin after sorority Kappa Kappa Gamma was suspended due to low recruitment last year. "Gender roles are upheld in violent ways and alcohol and parties are in male-controlled spaces. It's not safe for students, and we think that the dangers outweigh any benefits that members may find."

As of Sept. 17, only five members had signed onto ATO, lower numbers than Makowski said he had hoped. KKG, formerly a sorority on campus, was suspended for only having four returning members in Fall 2021. The perception of frat culture is making recruitment a harder sell, Makowski said, and even if ATO claims to be better, that rhetoric just isn't going to touch everyone.

Passey said he doesn't mind if it's just him and four other guys. He said he's unbothered by other people's poor view of fraternities, stating that they wouldn't get in the way of his personal goals.

But Makowski said he hopes the chapter can grow a better view of Greek life at UM.

"We want to help show how a fraternity can grow on campus instead of just focusing on the house and socials and partying," Makowski said. "I want to break down those stereotypes and show them that a fraternity is here to serve its community and help other students and the Missoula community."



LEFT: Alpha Tao Omega Growth Consultant Ryan Makowski recruits in the University Center for ATO and collects donations for the UM Food Pantry on Sept. 16. Makowski has been on campus working toward establishing a new chapter for the ATO Fraternity at UM.



BELOW: Ryan Makowski shows a binder filled with information about the ATO fraternity. Makowski says he "hopes bringing ATO to UM will change some of the common perceptions of Greek life."

MADDIE CRANDALL  
| MONTANA KAIMIN





# ‘The spirit of Montana’

Tradition lives on as former girzzlies return to the den

Story by Griffen Smith

*Editor's note: As homecoming returns to the University of Montana's campus this weekend, the Kaimin looked back at its archives and the University's former yearbook, "The Sentinel," to see how the yearly tradition started. The photos seen in this issue are scanned by photographer Nate Sanchez from past issues of the Kaimin and The Sentinel. The Kaimin also asked alums their thoughts on homecoming, and looked ahead to the full return of this year's celebration after two years of limitations during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**H**OMECOMING started at the University of Montana in 1919 when several graduates, professors and undergrads at a Missoula mortgage company peered through a window onto Missoula's brick-cobbled downtown streets, according to a Nov. 25, 1919, issue of the Montana Kaimin.

They watched from their office as students, pedestrians and soldiers returning from World War I walked along Higgins Street. Scars of war bled into day-to-day life. More than 400 new enrollees, many of them veterans, swelled the University. Tent cities lined the south side of campus for some time upon their return. The overflow was too much for the sparse dormitories.

UM planted Memorial Way, which still stands north of Main Hall, where 32 ponderosa pine trees mark the death of each UM student killed while enlisted in World War I.

The University also lost students from the Spanish Flu, with later estimates of an infection rate of one-in-four Missoulians. The virus killed more than 100 people in Missoula.

Between the losses from the war and the flu outbreak, the mood in Missoula was bleak.

But the students at Forbis-Toole, the mortgage company, helped to turn things around with a suggestion.

"Why not have a Homecoming day at the 'U' this year, and get all the former students to come back for a couple of days?" they told the Kaimin.

With the war over, hundreds of students set in motion the first mass return of alumni who used to call campus home.

By the end of the first homecoming, students established traditions like the parade and lighting the "M." Other traditions have ebbed and flowed over the years to form the four-day homecoming week UM is familiar with today.

Since the first homecoming, it's become a time for reconnection and celebration of the University, according to Bill Johnston, a UM graduate from Libby, Montana. Johnston graduated from UM in 1979. In 1975,

he went to his first homecoming.

Most of homecoming centered around the football game. In 1975, the game was at the team's old stadium by the track and field. Johnston remembered the old bleachers would sway with the wind and left a green residue on people's pants.

"You could always tell who went to the football game based on the green stuff they sprayed on the field and the bleachers," Johnston recalled. "Everyone just kinda looked green."

Since his first homecoming, Johnston said he has not missed the chance to reunite with his college friends and old professors. He's worked at UM in the admissions office, and was the executive director of UM's alumni association. He retired in 2016, and will receive the distinguished alumni award at the 2022 homecoming during the football game Saturday.

"There's nowhere else I can see the people I was around each day," he said. "There's different people, different reunions. It's a time to reconnect with friends, family and faculty, and you get to see how campus has changed since you left."

In over 100 years, UM's homecoming has only been canceled three times: Twice during World War II and once for the COVID-19 pandemic. Some years, however, missed classic homecoming traditions, like singing on the steps, the lighting of the "M" and even the parade. This year, the homecoming parade will return for the first time since 2019.

## THE FIRST HOCO

When the original organizers of homecoming looked out the window of Forbis-Toole and hatched their plans, they decided they wanted to bring UM alums back to campus to celebrate veterans coming back from the war. The students were unhappy with the lack of celebration at the University, and brought the plans to the city's chamber of commerce in 1919.

Edward Elliot, UM's chancellor, then the head of the University, was in the audience at the chamber of commerce. He approved their plans eagerly. Within a week, faculty and students sent letters to each past member of the University. Dean Arthur Stone, head of the journalism school, made the call for students to return.

"The spirit of Montana is not one that should flash only temporarily and for weeks lie dormant," Stone said at the journalism school's 1919 convocation. "Rather it is a spirit that is vibrant 365 days of the year — one that sends a 'squiggle' running up and down your spinal column ... Manifest that spirit we know you have — make it so apparent that the visitors will feel homesick for the old days again."





**ABOVE:** 1966: "Phi Delta Theta and Corbin capture first place honors in the parade." **THE SENTINEL**

**LEFT:** 1947: Top left - "Mrs. Rittenour receives flowers for being the oldest alumna present on campus during homecoming. Mrs. Rittenour is from Plains, Montana, and graduated in 1901." Top: UM students pose for the best beard contest. Middle: the homecoming queen nominees await the final royal vote. Bottom image is a homecoming game against University of Utah. **THE SENTINEL**

The freshman class did most of the legwork for the first homecoming. The students held the event on Thanksgiving Day in 1919.

Freshmen created the first lighted "M" by sticking fuses into the side of the white-painted rock letter. Dozens volunteered to staff the football games and parties.

Every student was expected to be part of the homecoming parade. The Kaimin estimated roughly 600 guests convened in Missoula the day before homecoming. At the time, 1,200 students were enrolled at UM and 12,000 people lived in Missoula.

The entire day centered on the Griz football game against Washington State University.

By all accounts, UM's first homecoming was a success, although Washington State crushed the Griz in football. A couple even held their wedding on campus after the game. Since then, different variations of homecoming have come to Missoula in the fall each year.

## UPS AND DOWNS

Some homecomings at UM since 1919 have included musical guests like the jazz Dave Brubeck Quartet and flamenco guitarist Carlos Montoya. Others had dances hosted on campus and by Greek life.

But other years, namely the early 1970s, according to UM alum Michael Higgs, had little to do with the spirit of reunion that the first homecoming emphasized.

"The whole thing was basically just the football game," Higgs said.

Higgs moved to Missoula from Michigan. He was a member of the Black Student Union, Phi Delta Theta, and later was on the alumni board of directors. Higgs said he fell in love with Missoula the first time he landed at the airport in 1972.

"I was like, 'Whoa, this is the place to be,'" Higgs said.

During his first fall, however, Higgs said people weren't as excited about the yell night or parade that usually happened during homecoming. While Higgs said

there was a lack of homecoming traditions during his UM undergrad, he returned one year in the 1980s to see a revival on campus.

He heard some UM graduates had resurrected or adapted many of the traditions into the Griz pep rally on the Oval and UM's welcome walk in the 1980s.

Higgs soon became a regular homecoming attendee. He said his favorite homecoming was in 1999, the first one he shared with his family.

"I got to bring my wife and my son to Missoula for the first time," Higgs said. "They got to meet people I had known for 30 years by then."

In 2006, Michael Higgs' son, Mike Higgs, enrolled at UM. Mike Higgs played on the Griz football team. Michael Higgs thought his son would enroll at a state school in the Midwest, so he said it was an amazing surprise to learn his son would go to his alma mater.

Both Michael Higgs and Johnston plan to be at this year's homecoming.

This year, homecoming traditions like the Hello Walk happened this week on Wednesday. On Thursday there will be a "Hall Brawl" homecoming dance at 7 p.m. in Schreiber Gym. On Friday at 8 p.m., the Forestry School will set a bonfire in the Oval to light the "Yell Night Pep Rally." The Grizzly Marching band will play while the UM advocates light the "M" using flashlights.

At 10 a.m. Saturday morning, the alumni-led homecoming parade, with the theme "Might of Montana," will start near Sentinel High School, move east on South Avenue and conclude at South Campus.

Finally, the Griz football team will take on Portland State at 2 p.m. on Sept. 24. But the informal meet-ups, tailgates and recon-nections will continue through the night.

"Soak it all in," Higgs advised current students. "I look back on my student years, and we didn't even bother. Go to the activities, meet alums. See people who have made a difference for the community. It's a lot of fun and a huge memory for me now."



**TOP LEFT:** 1969: "Alums were also a part of the Homecoming Parade." **THE SENTINEL**

**TOP RIGHT:** 1962: "And, of course the freshmen joined the Spurs and Bearpaws to paint the 'M.' The freshman class painted the 'M' each year when it was made of rocks. **THE SENTINEL**

**BOTTOM LEFT:** 1958: "Feature attraction of the afternoon was the game; the score, Denver's 26 to Montana's 13, proved to visiting alums that some things hadn't changed at all." **THE SENTINEL**

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** 1958: "Everyone except maintenance department decided that the new Baby Oval was perfect for bonfires — this one, with fire trucks standing by, helped out the pre-Homecoming pep rally." **THE SENTINEL**



# A backseat review of The Rep’s car-based play

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A woman sits in the driver side of an SUV, applying makeup slowly as she talks. It’s hard to tell if she’s talking to herself, the passenger seat or possibly the audience.

Even if she’s acting in a Montana Repertory Theatre play, there’s no way of telling. As she repeats the same sentence, she begins to sound more confident before the dash-mounted phone rings. The screen says it’s “Mom.”

The driver becomes flustered and attempts to dismiss the incoming call, but this moment also repeats and each new call garners a greater sense of disturbance.

The audience arrives at this moment of anxiety and they begin to ask: Is this a scripted disruption of a meticulously timed play? Or are you bearing witness to an actor being pestered by a parent?

This reality bend is kind of the point. “Some people get almost too into it,” said Mena Carrara-Ackermann, who plays a woman confronting her ex about a leaked sex tape in one of the scenes.

The Rep event, “Buckle Up 2: On the Road Again,” consists of five 10-minute plays all set in or outside of a vehicle parked in a location in downtown Missoula.

“Who doesn’t love a story?” said Michael Legg, the artistic director of The Rep. “We’re hardwired since the stone age to sit around and tell each other stories. It’s part

of the way that we, you know, culturally exist with each other as humans.”

The first play is an anxious scene. After some moments, you realize that the phone call is part of the play, and that the caller is not really a frantic tech-illiterate mother seeking help with online shopping.

Within the one-act, you come to know your driver through the tension with her own mother who forces her to assist in a task for her sister, which she’s begrudging to perform.

The scene ends when the driver is called upon by a production assistant to exit the vehicle because the next play is about to start.

The same assistant ushers you from the vehicle and sends you on your way to find the next scene.

Each play has a different writer and a cast consisting of one or two actors. Every time the audience changes location, they are coming into a completely different experience. Five chances to question what’s part of the play, and what’s not.

One scene uses a stack of firewood in the back of a truck being advertised as “for sale.”

“Last night, there was someone on a bicycle that came up and sort of was checking out the wood like he wanted to buy it,” said Jason McDaniel, the stage and production manager for the series. “The performers kept going with their thing, but he just wasn’t leaving so they kind of engaged him a little bit.”

The scenes build off personal interac-

tions with characters in small spaces. They are short yet intimate skits and sometimes the disbelief is hard to suspend. Especially when a character is listening to a Paddle-heads game at the same time as they recount a climate-ravaged dystopia 40 years into the future. Despite these instances, the locations are well-planned and aid in the immersion.

In one instance, you’re in a dark lot listening to two young people discuss committing a crime. In another, you’re watching a couple argue outside of Al’s & Vic’s Bar.

Despite being secluded pieces of fiction, the skits sometimes brush too closely against the real world. During a demo performance, a man tried to intervene with the actor’s argument outside of the bar and another tried to alert the actors that someone was “taking pictures of them,”



ABOVE: Mason Wagner, left, and Kendra Mylnechuk Potter, right, perform “Firewood,” a play from “Buckle Up 2: On the Road Again,” by Abby Rosebrock. The play takes place both inside and outside of a black SUV parked in the lot of TrailWest Bank in downtown Missoula.

LEFT: Actors put on “Firewood,” one of five plays making up “Buckle up 2: On the Road Again.” The show takes place in parked cars around downtown Missoula and is a sequel to a production in 2018 from the Montana Repertory Theatre.

CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN



# Professors ponder the ‘After Life’ in UM film series

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Inside the fourth floor of the Missoula Public Library, a crowd gathered to watch a movie and contemplate death.

“We are just trying to stimulate conversations in the community around death, dying and grief through other means, through thinking about art, thinking about poetry,” said Ashby Kinch, the University’s Dean of Graduate School and Professor of English.

Kinch was one of the eight faculty members awarded a \$499,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities last October. From that, he created the “Re-imagining Death: Conversations on Dying, Loss, and Grief ” series, which started in January of this year.

Kinch and Brian Dowdle, UM’s Japanese and language professor, hosted a screening and post-film discussion Sept. 9 of “After-Life,” a Japanese film written and directed by Hirokazu Koreeda. The film follows recently deceased members of society as they are forced to choose a single memory from their past life to hold onto, knowing that everything else will be erased forever.

Integrated with the library’s World Wide Cinema program, a free monthly film series that shows first-run independent and foreign films, “After-Life” was screened in Japanese, with English subtitles. The merging of cultures brings a unique viewing experience, by including knowledge and beliefs not as prevalent in Western cinema. This includes Buddhism, the second most followed religion in Japan.

“In Buddhism, our life is suffering or stress, Dukkah, and stress comes from attachments, and why that stress comes from attachment is because nothing is permanent, and the way to cure suffering is through letting go,” Dowdle said. “You could view the symbolism of nature as the Buddhist’s symbol of attachment.”

The film takes place in the transitional phase of late autumn into early winter. Dowdle and Kinch, who was also present at the event, both made a note of this.

“I think a lot of the symbols we saw, such as the cherry blossoms falling, was a



Brian Dowdle, Japanese and language professor at the University of Montana, prepares movie viewers at the Missoula Public Library for a film about re-imagining death. CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

symbol of impermanence and the idea that nothing lasts,” Dowdle said, “and if you try to hold on to things, you’re going to be miserable.”

Dowdle recommended before starting the film that the viewers put themselves in the position of the actors and try to decide which memory from their own life they would choose to keep.

“One of the joys of the process is you’re interacting,” Dowdle said.

One of the scenes that resonated most with the audience was when one of the characters in the film couldn’t decide on his memory until he found out that he was part of someone else’s.

“What matters in the film, in the end, is how well our lives were integrated into

the lives of others and therefore, what our death meant to them, not just ourselves,” Kinch said.

In the film, the characters were looking for meaning in their relationships and jobs, things that are supposed to “matter.” Although, for the people who didn’t have their life pan out accordingly — with no spouse, children, or dream job — they struggled to find a greater meaning.

“So many things are presented to us like ‘If you do this you will be successful, if you get that corner office you will be happy,’ but you can spend your whole life chasing after that and then get there and it might not have the meaning, for you, that everyone thinks it should,” Dowdle said. “I think it gets back to finding a memory

that’s yours.” The “Re-Imagining Death,” series continues next month, with a screening of “Titane” from France on Oct. 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cooper Room at the Missoula Public Library. Matthew Strohl, a Professor of Philosophy at UM, will lead the Oct. 14 post-film discussion.



# Griz hockey prepares for games after successful first year

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The University of Montana club hockey team is back with more players for a second year after returning to the ice from a seven year hiatus in 2021.

“Last year was spectacular. And you know, we’re happy to have them out here and we’ll play hard for them if they want to be here,” centerman Owen Lee said.

The Griz sold out all but one home game last year and had to add extra seating to Glacier Ice Rink.

The club team is not new to the University with a rich history dating back to the 1970s. The team competes in division two of the American Collegiate Hockey Association, which spans a total of three divisions. That allows the Griz to maintain a highly competitive schedule with the potential to take a shot at a conference championship.

Co-head coach Mike Anderson has high expectations for the season with the influx of players and the fan turn out the team has been receiving at home. He said he aims to make regionals and see how far the team can go.

Despite losing six players from last year’s roster, the team has gained 15 new recruits from all over the country.

“We got a good team coming into this year,” said Eddy

Lochridge, a second year forward. “We got a lot of kids on the team last year who are going to be moving down the depth chart and it’s just because we got a lot more talent coming in this year. Practices are very competitive. We go at it with each other and we’re fighting for ice time at this point.”

Since Griz hockey is not an NCAA recognized team, the players must pay to financially float the team. Each player’s dues, on average, are \$3,500 for the season. According to grizhockey.com, the dues cover almost everything a player needs from jerseys, gloves, helmets and travel expenses. “This is because our leadership has been part of the ACHA and paid their own way while playing at Montana and understands the value of tight budgeting and not wasting money on frivolous things,” according to grizhockey.com.

The Griz are set to play 29 games, with 17 of those games being at home. The team opens against Idaho at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 30 at Glacier Ice Rink, followed by two games against Western Washington. Immediately after that the team takes on rival Montana State University.

Part of the Griz hockey allure is Breezer, Glacier Ice Rink’s resident cat. “She is just doing her thing, hanging, getting pets and dealing with any mice that pop up,” said director of Griz hockey Tucker Sargent.



The University of Montana club hockey team practices to prepare for the upcoming season on Sept. 15. Last season, Glacier Ice Rink had to add extra seating for the hockey games. **RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

# Through hardship and hope, Teigan Avery is here to stay

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The Montana League of Women Voters invited six interviewees into the Missoula City Council chamber on Sept. 7, where they were tasked with delivering ten questions that could help decide who would become Missoula’s next mayor.

The smoke was heavy and the city was still mourning the loss of a revered and tenured mayor, when in stepped a young candidate who only knew how to take things the hard way.

She sat down, answered her 10 questions, and left, leaving everything on the table for a chance to succeed someone that made her feel heard in the world of Missoula politics.

While this might not have been the putting green or the UM campus or even a classroom that she would substitute teach in, Teigan Avery was ready to make her mark and show out for Missoula.

Avery is known by many as a golfer, civil servant, cancer survivor, and GoGriz.com’s 2019 Person of the Year, but what many don’t know is how she has made Missoula a home worth fighting for.

Avery was one of six mayoral candidates interviewed to become Missoula’s next leader after the passing of longtime mayor John Engen.

Avery’s accolades precede her. Not only was she a collegiate athlete and Rhodes Scholar finalist, but she has gone through hardships many college students never suffer through.

Avery’s father, Jerad, took his own life during a traffic incident on Nov. 18, 2019. The incident not only rocked the Avery family, but also took a toll on the Kalispell community, where he was a local guidance counselor at Glacier High School.

More than a year and a half before, Avery was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Recovering became a mission on its own.

Given these traumas, many would have sought a different path. But not Avery.

“Teigan’s pretty unique,” UM head golf coach Kris Nord said about his former athlete. “Right off the bat, when I started coaching golf three, four years ago, our discussions were about housing in Missoula, not golf, and how to rectify the situation.”

She doesn’t plan to stop. From working with city officials to make housing more affordable to working in classrooms as a sub, Avery has cemented her place as a Missoula resident.

And all of this wouldn’t have been the same if it weren’t for a chance to meet the late mayor in college.



Teigan Avery, former golfer for the University of Montana, practices her swing after the first day of competition at the Griz Match Play Challenge her senior year in 2019. **DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN**

After a discussion with Engen, Avery felt heard. It meant everything to someone who would later become a QUEST intern, an opportunity awarded to two Davidson Honors College members that provides both learning and engagement in the greater Missoula area.

QUEST, or Questions for Undergraduates Exploring Social Topics, is a cooperative initiative started in 2017 where the Honors College and the Office of the Mayor of Missoula pose a problem facing Missoula that groups of students have to solve. The two students who have the best solution earn an internship with the city.

“He just really inspired me,” Avery said. “Being there for 17 years, how he really cared about Missoula and demonstrated to me how you can make real change in people’s lives at the city level.”

This meeting also sparked Avery’s call for change. And, after Engen’s passing, the memory helped her understand what it takes to become mayor.

“We sat together and chatted about affordable housing and what things the University could do that would support the city at large,” Avery said. “And it was just a really great candid conversation. He made me feel very respected and he cared about what I was saying, even though I was just 22-years-old at the time.”

Throughout the interview process, it was clear that Avery was fighting an uphill battle, facing two current city council members and a former mayoral candidate.


Even though her competition was stacked, the competitor in her never backed down.

“There are two ways that you can reflect back on interviews,” Avery said. “You can reflect back and think, ‘Oh, there are all these things that I didn’t say that I wish that I said.’ Or I can reflect back and say, ‘I did the best I could with what I had.’”


While Avery was beat out by former Ward 2 council member Jordan Hess for the mayoral bid, she still believes that she gave it her all.

Every anecdote can’t describe the perseverance that is prevalent to Avery’s story, but even in losses, mayoral or not, she said she stands as a proud Missoulian and disciple of a mayor that will forever remain in the hearts of western Montana.

“I hope that other students see this and get inspired to participate in government themselves,” Avery said. “Like that classic Gandhi quote, I hope they see this and. ‘Be the change that they want to see in the world.’”




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# Wellness Wednesday

WORDS BY **MADDIE CRANDALL**  
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‘Wellness Wednesday’ at the University of Montana looks a little different than most universities with a variety of options that share a common goal to reduce student’s stress. This past Wellness Wednesday included UM dance on the Oval, a tea bar, meditation and more. Fresh veggies in the University Center and herbal teas in Rise and Rooted were some of the healthy opportunities students took advantage of on Sept. 14.

The tea bar offered a number of different options from Lake Missoula Tea Company while Laura Granlund, campus dining dietitian, ran the table in the entrance to Rise and Rooted, ready to answer any questions about the different benefits each tea offers.

Sage Foulk, a sophomore studying social work, will sit in the UC Atrium every Wednesday to give away fresh vegetables grown on campus from June to Oct. Foulk said they love the idea that students can get fresh and free vegetables on campus.

Highlighted on Wellness Wednesday’s — but also available to students most days of the year — are the relaxation stations in Curry Health Center. “The Relaxation Station is a free service to students where you can book a 15–45-minute relaxation getaway from all the get up and go,” according to Curry Health Center’s website. There are nine ways students can choose to have the room set up.



Herbs that are ready to be picked up on Wellness Wednesday on Sept. 14 in the University Center.  
**RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**



**TOP:** Lilly Dragge gets a cup of tea from the tea bar set up at the entrance to Rise and Rooted on Sept. 14 as a wellness day treat.

**BOTTOM:** Dragge drips a spoonful of honey into a cup of tea. The honey at the tea bar was harvested from campus dining’s hives.

**MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Campus dining’s dietitian Laura Granlund ran the Wellness Day tea bar, explaining the different tea options to anyone interested. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



**ABOVE:** Sophomore Sage Foulk gives away fresh vegetables and herbs every week in the University Center on Wellness Wednesday from June 22 to Oct. 5.

**LEFT:** Hannah Ryan, Wellness Center Office Assistant, sits in one of the relaxation stations in Curry Health Center with Amulette the service dog. The relaxation stations are free and can be booked through Curry Health Center’s website.

**RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**