

# MONTANA KAIMIN

## NEW POSSIBILITIES

STORY BY BELLA BUTLER



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Cover Illustration  
Daylin Scott



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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KAIMIN COMIC



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FEATURE PHOTO



Volunteer Monroe Ayers lifts a large “grade A” pumpkin onto his shoulder to carry it to one of the trucks during the “Pumpkins for the Pov” Pumpkin Harvest on Sept. 26, 2020. The harvest, an annual event, brought about 25 volunteers together to pull nearly 2,000 pumpkins out of a field near Evans Tree Farm on Mullan Road. The pumpkins were rated on their degrees of ripe-ness. **SARA DIGGINS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

EDITORIAL

Quarantine isn’t a suggestion

Quarantining isn’t just for the deathly sick, it’s for anyone who could possibly pass COVID-19 on to someone else. It’s not about you, it’s about protecting the people who are more susceptible, and it’s about stopping the spread of the pandemic.

In our last editorial, we thanked Curry Health staff for the work they’ve been doing tirelessly since UM returned to in-person instruction. That thank you extends to the Missoula City-County Health Department officials who are working hard to prevent the potential spread of the virus from the reintroduction of over 10,000 students to the community.

So when you don’t follow the rules and take to social media to publicly shame members of the health department (yep, that actually happened), you’re giving tired, hard-working health workers a big fat middle finger.

To be abundantly clear on the issue, a negative test result is not a subtly hidden message to go out and get drunk. As a matter of fact, it actually means you should stay put and quarantine for the recommended 14 days. This explicitly applies to anyone who has been deemed a close contact.

When the Missoula County Health Department reaches out to close contacts of an infected individual, it is not a casual, “Hey man, you might wanna get checked out and maybe follow the rules.” They mean business, and so should you. As numbers continue to rise daily, the question of, “Could this increase have been avoided if people followed the rules?” arises.

COVID-19 testing is not perfect, with varying levels of accuracy. Curry has three rapid testing machines, but they can only test so many people in a day. So if you get the call, start quarantine right away.

Close contacts are also tested as soon as possible, meaning that there is a chance the virus has not had time to spread within the body, and the negative test could actually mean, “You’re negative, *for now.*” So take one for the team, and act like a responsible adult.

Locking yourself away from the world is not fun. We all know, because we all had to stow away in our homes during lockdown. So we’ve got experience with that now. Real, working knowledge of being cooped up. That was for two months, though, so 14 days really isn’t too bad in comparison.

We all poke fun at anti-maskers, but we also know that what they’re doing is putting people at risk. Masks are worn to protect others, and quarantining does the same thing. It’s high time a new phrase was coined for those who don’t want to quarantine: Quarantine Karen.

Don’t hop on your Twitter and complain about, “Oh gee, I tested negative and I don’t wanna quarantine.” If you get sick, it’s not your fault. But spreading COVID-19, by acting irresponsibly, is.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?  
Email us your opinions at  
[editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com)

### SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

Edited by Margie E. Burke

#### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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Briefs: SCOTUS nominee, soaring COVID-19 numbers and winter session

MAZANA BOERBOOM  
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PRESIDENT TRUMP NOMINATES RBG’S REPLACEMENT

Just over a week after the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Donald Trump announced his nominee for her replacement on the Supreme Court. Judge Amy Coney Barrett is Trump’s third nominee to the court, and with just over a month until the presidential election, it will be a tight race to get her confirmed. According to AP News, no Supreme Court nomination has ever been made this close to an election, though in 2016, Republicans barred former President Barack Obama’s Supreme Court nominee until the election. Barrett is conservative judge who has served in the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals since 2017. She has a consistent conservative voting record and anti-abortion stances opposing those of Ginsberg before her death. Barrett’s confirmation would give the right a firm grip on

the court and put abortion rights won in Roe v. Wade at risk.

RECORD COVID-19 NUMBERS REPORTED IN MONTANA OVER THE WEEKEND

COVID-19 cases in Montana, in Missoula and at the University of Montana, all spiked over the weekend, hitting record highs. Toward the end of last week, Missoula added 95 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the county to a peak of 238 active cases. UM-affiliated active cases hit 76, with 28 newly reported at the end of last week. On Saturday, Montana reported its highest number of new cases in a single day, with 346, bringing the total to more than 3,000. Of Missoula County’s cases reported last week, 51% of patients were in their 20s, but health official Ellen Leahy told the Missoulian that most people were between the ages of 18 and 24. UM’s Covid Response

Team sent an email to the campus on Friday, attributing the rising caseload to social settings outside of class, rather than in-class interactions. “As we enter another weekend, please practice responsible behaviors to protect yourself and the rest of our UM family,” the email said. “Avoid large crowds and keep your social circles as small as possible.”



WINTER SESSION IS BACK

UM is bringing back the winter session this year because fall semester is ending early, according to a UM News release. The new session will offer more than 50 courses to students and the general public, and will run from Nov. 30 to Dec. 18. Associate Director of UM Summer Becka Simons said there was significant

interest in a winter session this year. “One student said this session would be very helpful for graduating early and reducing stress during the fall and spring semesters,” she told UM News. “Another student said the session would give them more flexibility, which is critical — especially as students are working hard to stay in school during the pandemic.” Advising will open the first week of October, and registration will open the week of Oct. 26.

UM HOSTS PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE WATCH PARTIES

UM’s Voter and Civic Engagement Committee hosted its first of four Presidential debate watch parties on Tuesday in the UC Ballroom. The watch parties, held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., are only open to students because of COVID-19 and require masks and social distancing, according to the Facebook event page. The next watch party will be on Wednesday, Oct. 7, for the Vice Presidential debate; the final two will be held on Oct. 15 and 22 for Presidential debates.

Blotter: Stairwell escapee and fire alarm friends

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Since last week’s blotter, UMPD reported 23 crimes in and around campus. Bike thefts returned this week to be the number one crime, with six bicycles snatched in a seven-day period. A close second was criminal mischief.

9/17 LIBRARY BOOZE

The Mansfield library called UMPD for support after a homeless man walked in, sat down at a study room and then pulled out a brewski. The library had asked the man to not drink alcohol while on the premises before, and UMPD peacefully escorted him out of the building. He received a 72-hour no trespassing order, and will have to drink outside of the library from now on.

9/20 RAGE AGAINST DOORS

Two separate reports noted damage to

door handles at the junction of the Todd Building and the music school, according to UMPD. The doors appeared to be kicked repeatedly, though nobody broke into the building from the efforts. There are no suspects.

9/21 THEFT OR TRESPASS?

UMPD responded to a report someone was rummaging through a car at the Craighead Apartments. When officers arrived, the suspect already left the scene, and the owner of the car said nothing was stolen. The car owner reportedly experienced a car theft before, and decided to empty his entire vehicle, becoming the only car-related crime not to have an item stolen last week. Two other car thefts reported by UMPD last week featured a stolen checkbook, bear spray, a handheld tablet and more.

9/22 FIRE ALARMED FRIEND

A pot smoker in Pantzer Hall came to the grim realization that fire alarms do

work inside the building, when they triggered the room’s smoke detection device. RAs responded to the alarm, carded into the room, and found no student or drugs, but instead received a strong waft of the wacky tobacco. According to UMPD, the student who lives in the room let a friend in, and he stunk the place up before sneaking out. No criminal charges were filed, and instead UM Housing referred the student for a conduct policy.

9/23 TRAPPED IN THE STAIRWELL?

UMPD received a call that a student in Jesse Hall walked into the stairwell, and then found they were unable to get out without opening the exterior door and triggering the fire alarm. While the student could have waited for help, they decided to instead attempt to climb through the small pathway between the window and the stairwell’s guardrail, and got stuck. UMPD then spent 45 minutes disassembling the railing, and freed the student from the stairwell.



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The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

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

- ACROSS
- 1 Sailor's stop
  - 5 Take for a ride
  - 9 Strong suit
  - 14 Bryce Canyon locale
  - 15 Meal in a shell
  - 16 Trim, as an alpaca
  - 17 Wreath adornments
  - 19 Cowboy's companion
  - 20 Backward, on a boat
  - 21 Trim, as a tree
  - 23 "Are we there \_\_\_?"
  - 25 Database command
  - 26 Oscar-winning Emma
  - 31 Navy clerk
  - 35 Metal fastener
  - 36 Retirees' org.
  - 38 Fix up
  - 39 Pizzeria appliance
  - 40 It may be bid
  - 41 "Fiddlesticks!"
  - 42 Flippant
  - 43 Tom Clancy hero Jack
  - 44 Hose hue
  - 45 Heir's concern
  - 47 No longer with us
  - 49 Chain segment
  - 51 Tie the knot
  - 52 Skedaddle
  - 56 Playing marbles
  - 61 In progress
  - 62 Notre Dame, for one
  - 64 GPS suggestion
  - 65 Kind of socks
  - 66 One teaspoon, maybe
  - 67 September bloom
  - 68 John and Yoko's son
  - 69 Hearty dish
- DOWN
- 1 Insect stage
  - 2 Elevator man
  - 3 Carry on
  - 4 What you used to be
  - 5 Lapidary's wares
  - 6 Preserve, in a way
  - 7 Got a perfect score
  - 8 Exodus leader
  - 9 On dry land
  - 10 Like some cooks
  - 11 Medical fluids
  - 12 Vane direction
  - 13 Grove growth
  - 18 HBO series, "Tales from the \_\_\_"
  - 22 Orange-toothed rodent
  - 24 Bootlicker
  - 26 Figure of speech
  - 27 Homes for drones
  - 28 Biatant
  - 29 Unwritten reminder
  - 30 Aquatic nymph
  - 32 Kind of raise
  - 33 Words of wisdom
  - 34 Well-known
  - 37 Extend, as a lease
  - 40 Circus site
  - 44 Scout's award
  - 46 Nervous giggle
  - 48 Female fowl
  - 50 Thrills
  - 52 Mitchell mansion
  - 53 Alien crafts
  - 54 Defeat decisively
  - 55 Strike site
  - 57 Combines
  - 58 Meadowlands pace
  - 59 Alleviate
  - 60 Great deal
  - 63 Tetley product

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Fire up your DoorDash, it's late-night snack time

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NAT BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

Picture this: It's 8:36 p.m. on a Tuesday during midterms. You're on your third scroll through that astronomy PowerPoint and starting to wish you'd asked your adviser to clarify when you heard her recommend an "astrology" class. Then — you hear it. Your stomach rumbles. You forgot to get dinner, and you have at least three more hours of studying left. Time to open up the good ol' DoorDash app.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):** No, that delivery driver does not have a crush on you. He is literally just doing his job. There is no weird flirtationship happening here. Still, it couldn't hurt to order some Ciao Mambo and hope Chad is working again. **SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):** We all remember that one time you ordered Panda Express three times in one day. We were a little concerned. But, hey, when you know what you like, right? If it ain't broke, don't fix it. **SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22):** When you were a freshman, you were the friend to insist on Taco Bell while in the Uber home from the party. Regardless if it was 2 a.m. or not. We don't care what anyone says, Sag, Taco Bell is a personality trait. **CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19):** Okay, we know you don't miss dinner. But the best of us get hungry sometimes and, let's face it, 9 p.m. is almost midnight for you, so doesn't it count as a new day? We recommend you order some late-night breakfast from Denny's.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):** We've never seen someone put down sushi quite as fast as you do. And hey, you've got 30 minutes before Sushi Hana closes. Get ready to field some judgemental looks from your roommates, though, when your apartment smells like spicy tuna and ginger for the night.

**PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):** Okay, Pisces. Let's avoid the hanger and get some food in you before this night devolves into a "Marley & Me" rewatch/sob-fest. We know that line, and we know you're rapidly approaching it. Might we suggest some fries from Five Guys, instead? **ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):** We aren't sure how to explain this, but Wally and Buck just perfectly matches your energy. A burger is exactly what you need to make it through this hellish week of midterms. **TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):** Ah, ol' faithful. Chipotle. There are no surprises. It's high reward and low risk. Because if there's one thing you don't like, Taurus (especially when it comes to food), it's risk. **GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):** You guys secretly feel like you're the protagonist in a New York City indie movie every time you order from Vietnam Noodle. Like, "Oh, you haven't heard of it? Well, you wouldn't know. It's this little hole-in-the-wall joint." (If only it were nestled in Brooklyn Heights instead of directly adjacent to the Jo-Ann Fabrics off Brooks). **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** What better comfort food than Noodles and Co., right, Cancer? It's like a warm hug from your mom — an assurance that you're gonna make it through this, in the form of some bomb-ass mac and cheese. **LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):** Was there ever any question? Pie Hole, of course. The star of the show. The belle of the ball. The creme of the crop. The — okay, we're done. **VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):** Getting to this time of the night without eating is no oddity for you. The leftover takeout boxes packed into your fridge like Tetris blocks are a testament to that. We have to tell you, though: you need to eat. Order some Koh Chang Thai. Those \$17 noodles are worth it.



# ASUM passes Good Samaritan resolution, campus housing onboard

JACOB OWENS  
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The Associated Students of the University of Montana unanimously passed a Good Samaritan policy resolution on Wednesday, pushing for the University to revise the student code of conduct accordingly.

A Good Samaritan policy would strengthen the University’s amnesty policies for situations in which, for example, a student seeks help for an underage intoxicated friend in need of medical attention.

Proponents of the resolution cited more than 100 colleges around the country that have enacted similar policies, including Montana State University.

“Our role in the Senate, I think, is to advocate for the health and safety of students, and I think that a policy like this directly makes students safer,” one of the co-authors of the resolution, Senator Jonathan Karlen, said.

Senators Izy Lyon and Vincent Tarallo also authored the resolution, SB 28.

Karlen believes ASUM and the University are on the same page about the resolution this time. Sandy Curtis, the director of housing, is even co-sponsoring the resolution.

“What I like about this policy that we’re suggesting is that we’re on the same side as the University,” Karlen said.

The President of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Kyle Yoder, and Vice President Michael Layeux presented a public comment to the senate in August about their concerns over the lack of clarity in the University’s drug and alcohol amnesty policy.

The University’s current rule, included in the “Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy” of the student handbook, protects a student reporting a conduct violation from facing disciplinary action, but does not protect the student in need of medical attention or others involved.

Yoder and Layeux said they fear the lack of written protection can leave students confused and hesitant to seek medical treatment for an intoxicated student.

“An unwritten policy is as useless as not having a policy at all,” Yoder said.



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ASUM passed a similar resolution in 2015, but it was not adopted by the University into its written policies.

Kelly Magnuson, the associate director of rights and responsibilities at UM Housing, said she could not explain why a written rule was not adopted by the University. She was not responsible for the student code of conduct in 2015, and the office of community standards had not been established yet, she said.

Magnuson said she understands how unwritten policies can lead to hesitation. She said UM Housing plans to work with ASUM and other parts of the administration to insert an amnesty provision in the code of conduct for Fall 2021.

She explained that the current, unwrit-

ten amnesty policies in dorms is consistent with a general rule of encouraging students to help one another.

“The approach with students in housing has always been for students to look out for one another and step up when they see something that isn’t right,” Magnuson said. “It can involve a variety of behaviors, but usually when students are engaging in using drugs and alcohol and they need help, we want others to say something.”

The residence halls at UM follow unwritten medical-amnesty policies, which provide for setting up meetings with students and discussing campus resources rather than reporting the students involved for conduct violations.

Magnuson said the current unwritten protections do not apply in all situations: for example, if an individual is dealing drugs or people at the scene of a criminal incident refuse to cooperate with authorities.

Senator Lyon, a former resident assistant at Aber Hall, said students often hesitate to get help due to confusion over what policies the University of Montana Police Department follows.

“There’s definitely a culture against calling medical,” Lyon said. “I think everybody’s familiar within college the notion of just sleeping it off, which is really scary for RAs.”

The Montana State Legislature passed the “Help Save Lives from Overdose Act”

in 2017, which provides limited protection for those reporting an overdose—an effort to encourage people to call for aid. The act came two years after Montana passed legislation with protections in 2015.

UMPD’s operations lieutenant, Christopher Croft, said UMPD does not have a specific policy regarding medical amnesty, but just follows state law. Croft said he cannot remember a time since the state legislature first addressed medical amnesty, in 2015, in which the individual reporting the overdose as well as the one in need of medical attention have not been protected.

Croft said he could understand how students might be confused in some instances, such as when a student goes to an RA for help and the RA reaches out to medical services or UMPD. Croft said that, in this scenario, medical amnesty would not follow as a matter of law, but rather, would be up to each officer’s discretion. Unless an additional situation is occurring, though, Croft said, waiving

medical amnesty is not likely.

The resolution passed by ASUM would prevent a reported incident from going into a student’s conduct file, but would not prevent referral for behavioral health options at Curry Health Center. Nor would the resolution protect a student who calls for help once authorities have already arrived or who “misuses” the policy.

Croft said UMPD would be beholden to UM policies and procedures unless it strayed from the law, but admitted that what constitutes “misuse” is unclear.

Croft said he would support the nuances of medical-amnesty policies being included in writing to help minimize confusion among students.

“We don’t want anybody that’s suffering from alcohol poisoning or some other medical emergency, choosing not to seek help because they’re fearful of getting a minor possession citation or something along those lines,” Croft said.

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# NEW POSSIBILITIES

## HOW PANDEMIC TRAGEDY CREATES POTENTIAL FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD

STORY BY BELLA BUTLER  
DESIGN BY DAYLIN SCOTT

If 2020 were a sound, it'd be a cough. An exasperated struggle for breath as disaster attacks the lungs. From a virus to wildfire smoke, our respiratory systems are overloaded and overworked. But perhaps the sources of the coughs are not just separate tragedies of an eventful year. Perhaps the two are not coincidentally parallel, but actively intertwined.

While considering the pandemic and sustainability on a hazy day in Missoula, University of Montana environmental studies professor Dan Spencer invoked a relevant cliché: the Chinese character for “crisis”—an aggregate of “danger” and “opportunity.” His complexion appeared softened by a smoke-diffused light pouring in through his office window during a Zoom interview. The smoke, he later said, was an example of climate change finding its way into our everyday lives, just as the pandemic has done in a matter of months.

“That’s where we find ourselves right now,” Spencer said. “[The pandemic] is a very perilous, dangerous situation for all sorts of reasons, but it’s also a situation with lots of opportunity to get out of our comfortable boxes, which we know are not sustainable.”

What might that opportunity look like on the University of Montana main campus?

“Ideally, you’d be able to come to school at the University of Montana and have a relatively small energy footprint,” said Eva Rocke, UM’s sustainability coordinator (Rocke is also the reporter’s adviser for a Global Leadership Initiative capstone course). She paints a picture of a UM campus where people can just as easily compost and recycle as they can toss things in the trash; where enticing plant-based options fill the plates of students having a meal in the Food Zoo; and parking lots are filled with bikes and electric buses instead of gas-guzzling cars.

The call for sustainability is a tricky one, though. The term is loaded. Sustainability exists in a number of contexts, from trans-

portation to waste management to renewable energy. UM Sustainability, which is best described as an initiative, rather than a department, tackles all of the above.

The concept of UM Sustainability first arose on Earth Day, in 2002, when former UM President George Dennison signed the Talloires Declaration, an international action plan for incorporating sustainability and environmental literacy into university operations across the world. Dennison followed this by signing the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, in 2007, pledging UM to carbon neutrality by 2020. Around that time, he also hired the campus’s first sustainability coordinator and, a year later, the first recycling coordinator, positions that grew into the Office of Sustainability.

Since then, UM Sustainability has worked across campus to address envi-

opportunities to expand its work—and considering how to best use this potential catalytic moment to its advantage.

Rocke, the staff coordinator, highlighted a number of surprising ways in which the pandemic has affected the University’s sustainability work.

One is financial. “The fiscal uncertainty brought about by COVID has reinforced our desire as a University to make facilities investments that are going to save us dollars in the long-term,” she said.

This dates back to September 2019, when UM administrators looked to Wall Street to generate cash for “student-serving infrastructure.” The University refinanced its then roughly \$160 million in debt and issued \$146.8 million in new bonds. Of the bond revenue, \$20 million has been approved for the addition of a natural gas combined heating and power

plant, which will be located adjacent to the current steam plant in the northeast corner of the University. Rocke said the plant has the potential to reduce campus carbon emissions by a quarter.

According to Rocke, the carbon-cheap plant was an especially appealing proposal given its economic potential. By generating energy on site,

rather than bringing it in from places like Colstrip in eastern Montana, the University saves power and money. With an uncertain fiscal landscape in the coming years due to COVID-19, this concept of payback, credited to renewable energy, has a new gleam to it.

While capital investments are typically set aside during strenuous financial times, the bond money is guaranteed, so the new combined heating and power plant is protected from the threat of budget cuts.

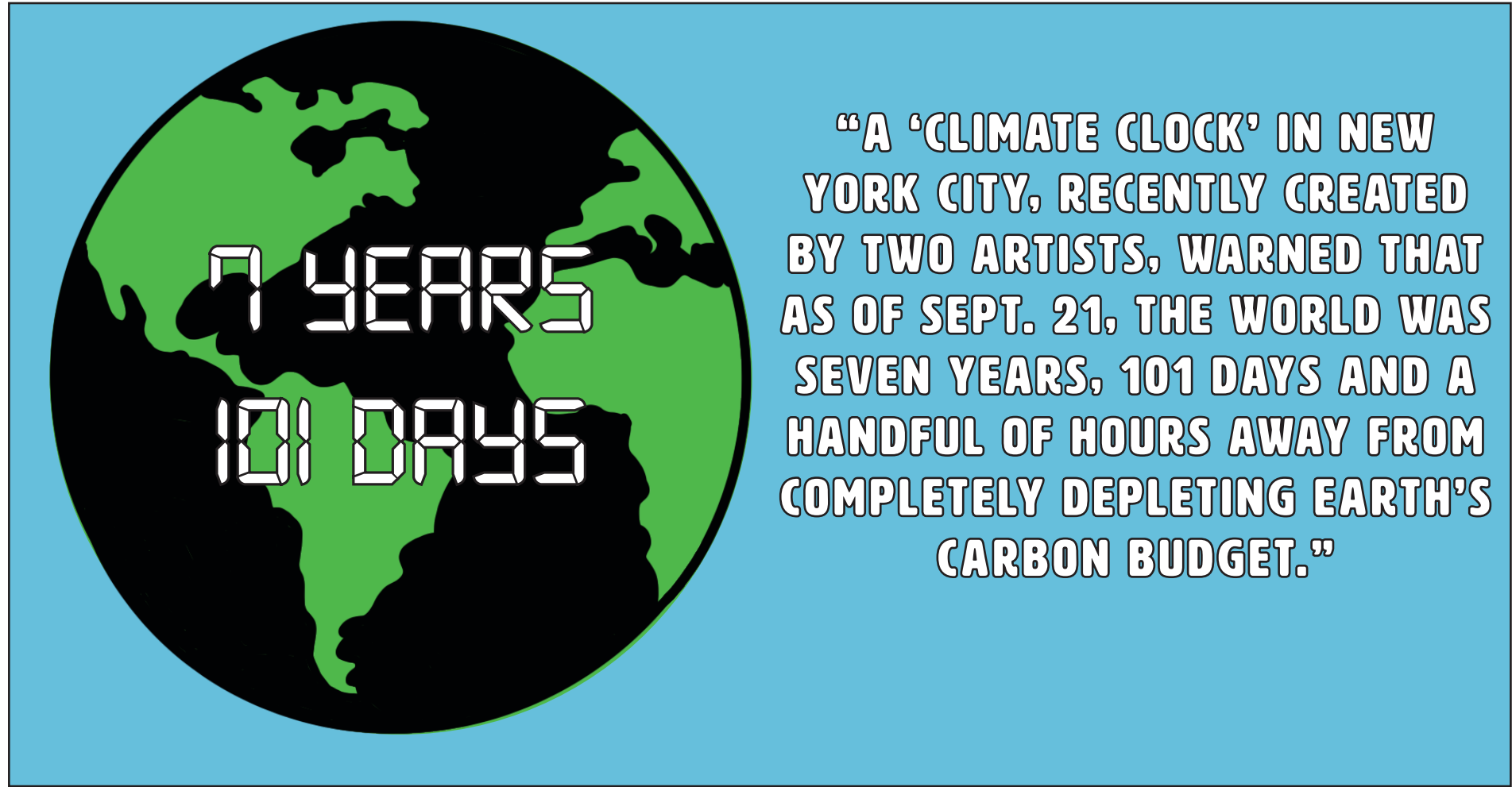
Sustainability work, Rocke reflected, is opportunistic, meaning that the circumstances have to be just right. “Sustainabil-

**“[THE PANDEMIC] IS A VERY PERILOUS, DANGEROUS SITUATION FOR ALL SORTS OF REASONS, BUT IT’S ALSO A SITUATION WITH LOTS OF OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT OF OUR COMFORTABLE BOXES, WHICH WE KNOW ARE NOT SUSTAINABLE.”**

ronmental issues. Its work can be seen in the electric buses mixed in among the UDASH transportation fleet, campus-wide recycling bins and local food options at UM Dining locations. Though less visible to students, UM Sustainability has also engaged in research and helped author reports and goals for the University. In 2013, UM Sustainability submitted a Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report to the STARS national committee, receiving a silver rating from the evaluative program.

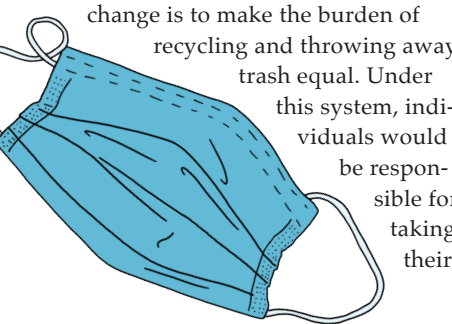
Now, despite the challenges of the pandemic, UM Sustainability is finding niche





ty work happens most of the time because you manage to talk somebody else into getting on board with something that nobody has ever asked of them before and you have a window of opportunity to do it,” she said.

In addition to the combined heating and power plant, last year, Rocke brought a consultant to UM to generate feedback on how the University could best divert its waste from landfills. The consultant recommended removing desk-side trash service (an initiative that places a trashcan next to every administrative or staff desk on campus). The idea behind this minor



waste out to a central facility to sort both their trash and recycling.

Rocke said that, when she first proposed this to UM employees, the custodial staff responded with concern. By taking away the service, their labor was diminished. Now that custodians are responsible for sanitizing in addition to their regular duties, due to the pandemic, removing the desk-side trash service from their overloaded plates is mutually beneficial. UM Sustainability is planning to launch a pilot model of this program in Eck Hall, the Liberal Arts building.

While the pandemic has helped sustainability projects that once floundered, Rocke noted another, less tangible silver lining: the potential to change people’s habits.

“Since so much of my job on a day-to-day basis is getting people to tweak these little things that they do, and think about their work a little bit differently, the pandemic has absolutely opened that door,” she said.

The risks of the virus have forced all of us to quickly change our behavior. When leaving the house, we’ve added masks and hand sanitizer to the checklist of keys and wallet. We attend meetings behind computer screens and smartphones, and we eat more meals prepared in our own kitchens. Rocke said society’s ability to make these behavioral shifts may alter our psychology in regards to change. Her sustainability requests, both to individuals and the University as an institution, might not seem so daunting in the future.

“With COVID-19 coinciding with the rise of Black Lives Matter and the whole response to George Floyd and Breonna Taylor,” Spencer, the environmental studies professor said, “it was incredible to see society mobilizing, or big sectors of society mobilizing, but also doing it within the context of a pandemic.” Spencer looks to these developments as hopeful signs of what humans might accomplish.

Spencer’s sermon on opportunity has been echoed by many in the environmental

movement. On Earth Day, Swedish activist Greta Thunburg told a virtual crowd that the world as we once knew it is gone. “We must choose a new way forward,” she said. Many political leaders, like Montana’s governor Steve Bullock, have used the term “new normal,” suggesting a radical shift on the horizon as society eventually moves beyond COVID-19. In a piece published by The Guardian, New Zealand’s climate change minister James Shaw wrote, “What we do in this unprecedented moment will determine the quality of life for billions of people. This time, we could do it differently.”

Across the United States, protesters have flooded both the streets and digital media, demanding social and policy-based changes on issues such as sustainability.

“What COVID has shown us is that we can actually mobilize societies pretty quickly, pretty dramatically, in really important ways that have impact and that’s precisely what we need to do with climate change,” Spencer said.

He added that the sooner we start making profound shifts toward sustainability, the less painful it will be in the long-run. A “Climate Clock” in New York City, recently created by two artists, warned that as of Sept. 21, the world was seven years, 101 days and a handful of hours away from completely depleting Earth’s carbon budget.

When the countdown hits zero, scientists warn of an apocalypse: one in which the wildfires and floods we see are vastly multiplied. Choking on smoke and cleaning up shores ravaged by hurricanes are just two examples of the devastation that will continue to infiltrate our reality, Spencer said. All of this is to say that this moment, this opportunity to create a more sustainable “new normal,” is pivotal, and the University of Montana is not exempt from that responsibility.

“We’re going to have to really figure out how to be creative to be more sustainable in the midst of these really tremendous challenges, and in some ways, COVID is like a pilot project for having to come to terms on that,” Spencer said.

Like many people involved with sustainability at the University, Spencer has a wish list of changes he would like to see in the wake of this shift. “I would love sustainability to be one of the lenses through which every education at the University of Montana is taught,” he said.

Ben Borhegyi, a UM sophomore, the ASUM’s sustainability intern and the vice president of the Climate Response Club, has a wish list of his own.

“The University needs to take this opportunity to shift its culture,” Borhegyi said. “These are some of the four most influential, or five most influential, years of a student’s life.” He added that the University should take it upon itself to empower students to make sustainable choices now that they can take with them into the rest of their lives.

Borhegyi, who has a special interest in the intersection of ecological and social sustainability, would like to see University officials engage more with student groups. He suggested that this could be as simple as having UM administrators attend student group meetings.

While new opportunities for sustainable progress have emerged, the pandemic has

presented challenges to UM Sustainability, too. Rocke brought up the case of single-use plastics, which have been widely used in food service and sanitation during the pandemic. Despite research by the World Health Organization and the Cen-

But because of the virus, only three students are now allowed in each van, requiring many more vehicles to transport a class into the field. “This is going to greatly increase our carbon footprint for this experience, but is it worth doing?”

“WE’RE GOING TO HAVE TO REALLY FIGURE OUT HOW TO BE CREATIVE TO BE MORE SUSTAINABLE IN THE MIDST OF THESE REALLY TREMENDOUS CHALLENGES, AND IN SOME WAYS, COVID IS LIKE A PILOT PROJECT FOR HAVING TO COME TO TERMS ON THAT.”

ters for Disease Control and Prevention that surface spread is not a primary concern for the coronavirus, many UM Dining facilities, with the exception of the Food Zoo, have replaced standard utensils and other items with single-use alternatives.

A study published in April 2020 by the New England Journal of Medicine reported the virus actually lives longer on plastic than most other surfaces, sometimes up to three days. Yet an iced latte from the UC Market is still served in a plastic cup, and with the addition of disposable masks and sanitizing wipes, trash cans across campus are overflowing with single-use items in quantities not seen in years. For Rocke, who has set a personal, informal goal for the University to be waste-free, this is not good news.

Rocke also noted that it has been challenging to make sustainability requests that require extra time and energy when everyone is already so inundated with anxiety. It seems unfair, she said.

Outside of the institution of UM Sustainability, academics who focus on human interactions with the environment have also experienced a novel adversity. In past years, Spencer took his ethics and restoration students in University vans to travel to the Upper Clark Fork and Deer Lodge Valley to interrupt the doom and gloom of climate change slideshows with hands-on restoration work.

Spencer has asked himself.

Both Spencer and Borhegyi lamented the loss of valuable face-to-face interactions. Borhegyi said the Climate Response Club has been unable to meet in person, and Spencer has lost the chance to see friends and colleagues he would only run into at conferences. Issues of sustainability can be taxing and emotional, and the in-person interactions are irreplaceable.

Despite this tangle of adversity and hope, most agree what matters most is what comes next. For Rocke and Spencer, the key on campus is to promote both personal action and institutional regulation.

“The individual change is necessary because it can be done in a way that raises our consciousness that then drives the institutional change that needs to happen,” Spencer said.

Rocke said that, just as it is impossible to get every person to wear a mask, getting everyone in the campus community to adopt entirely sustainable practices is unrealistic. The best thing she can do,

she said, is to create an environment for people that supports the overall mission. An environment in which students could ride an electric bus to campus, recycle the packaging of a plant-based breakfast sandwich and sit in a classroom heated by renewable energy. An environment in which students could be a part of a waste- and carbon-free campus.

Is this picture viable? Maybe, Rocke says, though the campus is very, very far from reaching the goal of carbon-neutrality by 2020 set by former UM President Dennison a decade ago. UM Sustainability has yet to set a new date for this goal, and Rocke said she is hesitant to do so.

The pandemic, she said, “has reinforced what I already knew in my gut about how quickly and effectively people can mobilize when we try and we absolutely have to make change.” Rocke isn’t sure, however, if the ability to do so will translate into a “new normal” for sustainability.

She wants to believe that “we will come out on the other side of this COVID experience and choose to motivate and collaborate around climate action,” she said. “But I don’t know that I believe that will be true.”





# UM opens new Branch Center space for American Indian Heritage Day

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At noon on Friday, students and community members broke out their thermal jackets and congregated under murky grey skies on the Oval to celebrate the 23rd annual UM-hosted American Indian Heritage Day.

Sprinkled among the navy-blue and dark-green coats were bursts of vibrant reds and stripes of yellow, sky-blue beads and black fringes. Some people had chosen to don their ribbon shirts and skirts, moccasins and even “indigenized masks” to express their Native Griz pride.

“Everybody is welcome to today’s event,” Dr. Brad Hall, a member of the Blackfeet nation and tribal outreach specialist, said. “This is not an event one person put on; it takes a community.”

The day’s activities included a sunrise ceremony followed by breakfast and information about the Alexander Blewett III School of Law. After that there was lodge-raising on the Oval and then the opening of the Branch Center’s “smudge space,” a dedicated area for those who participate in Native American cultural practices of burning dried plants like sage and using the smoke for blessing or cleansing.

A procession of tribal flags preceded the speakers on the Oval. Kyiyo, American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL), Native American Natural Resources Program and All Nations Health Center also staffed outreach tables. At the end of the day UM Dining sponsored an Indigenous meal with Mariah Gladstone from Indigikitchen, a Native health and food organization.

The master of ceremonies, Zachary Wagner, a member of the Cheyenne and Blackfeet nations and a junior in Native American Studies, stood at a podium in front of Main Hall and introduced the guest speakers. Kyiyo President Marcos Lopez and Zachariah Rides At The Door stood by him, striking hand drums and singing an honor song.

After the song, the first speaker, Dr. Hall, gave a short blessing to the many Native people struggling during COVID-19 and asked the audience to take a moment of silence to acknowledge those



Special guest speaker Arlene Adams speaks about her time as a University of Montana student and the importance of American Indian Heritage Day in front of Main Hall on Friday, September 25, 2020. **ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

who are suffering.

“When a loss occurs in our community, it’s something that we all feel,” Hall said. “It’s something that the University doesn’t always look at. Our [UM] community doesn’t always understand just how communal Indian people are.”

UM President Seth Bodnar was the next speaker. He revealed a proclamation that described the centrality of the Native community and acknowledged the need to better understand the values of Native people.

The last speaker was Arlene Adams, with Two River Eagle School and one of the first graduates of UM’s Native

American Studies Department.

She told the audience when she was growing up in Arlee, she loved to learn. But when she came to the University of Montana, she felt disconnected. It was a culture shock, and she had very little support. After a year, though, she became a student in the newly founded Native American Studies Department. She encouraged everyone to help bring the community together in their own individual way.

“It humbles me today to stand before you and to ask the Creator to look at each and every one of our paths,” Adams said. “Each and every one of us has a

contribution to our life, and to this land, and to this University. Take it to heart and make something good out of it.”

The presentation ended with Wagner, the master of ceremonies, expressing the importance of the new smudge space at the University.

“Incorporating [smudging] into the University helps Indigenous students who aren’t from here, who don’t have that connectedness to the area. It helps us pray and helps us feel inclusive,” Wagner said. “It’s important to us as Indigenous people, it’s important to us as American people. It’s important to us as Missoula people, and it’s important to us as the University community.”

# ‘Enola Holmes’ has a powerhouse lead, but little else

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I know slightly more than jack shit about Sherlock Holmes. He’s a detective, has sexual tension with Watson (or at least that’s what the fanfictions told me) and that’s about it.

Maybe I would have enjoyed Netflix’s “Enola Holmes” more if I had read the books like I said I would five years ago. If Rotten Tomatoes is any indication, fans seem to be enthusiastic. But director Harry Bradbeer (“Killing Eve”) delivers little more than a sporadically enjoyable, by-the-numbers road trip movie that compromises its protagonist’s integrity for the sake of plot convenience.

Based on the spin-off books by Nancy Springer, the film follows Sherlock’s sister, Enola (Millie Bobby Brown, who also co-produced). Thanks to the teachings of her suffragette mother (Helena Bonham Carter),

she has the brains and strength to defy Victorian-era womanhood.

When her mother goes missing, she sets out on an adventure to crack the case and follow in the footsteps of her famous sibling (Henry Cavill: still mustache-less, still bland). But the young detective’s skills are put to an even greater test when she’s forced to help a boy named Tewkesbury (Louis Partridge) avoid a mysterious assassination attempt.

The film juggles two mysteries, and it doesn’t give either of them enough focus. The clues are too vague and complicated for the audience to keep track of, and they’re never rewarded for paying attention.

“Enola Holmes” isn’t so much a mystery movie as a kids-save-the-day-movie, complete with all the Walmart bargain bin clichés: a buddy road trip plot, some no-fun relatives, and an evil goon (Burn Gorman, doing a poor Willem Dafoe impression)

chasing our young heroes.

Not only are these tropes given no new spin by Bradbeer and his team, but they often undermine the empowerment of the female lead. Enola states she doesn’t want to marry, yet a love story between her and Tewkesbury is shoehorned in anyway (For those of you keeping score at home, he saves her twice). It’s established she’s perfectly capable of getting out of tricky situations, but she doesn’t even try to escape captivity in the third act. God forbid a family film go without an overlong scene of the protagonist moping when all hope seems lost.

The one truly fantastic element of the film is Brown. She’s packed with wit and charisma, breathing life into the film’s duller points. Her Deadpool-esque fourth-wall breaks are by far the most entertaining scenes.

They’re so good, in fact, that I almost feel guilty treating “Enola Holmes” so harshly.



Younger viewers will probably love it, as will Sherlock fans. But for adult newcomers, enjoyment won’t be so elementary.

# Sufjan Stevens creates a soundtrack for dystopia

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We might be living in a dystopian world, but at least we’ll have Sufjan Stevens to create the soundtrack for it.

“The Ascension” is Stevens’ eighth studio album, and it’s his weirdest to date. It creates an ominous aura that gives listeners a glimpse of living in a sci-fi film like “Blade Runner” or “The Matrix.” This album was made to be played in an abandoned warehouse with people way artsier than us trying to explain the motifs. The motifs are fascinating, but that layer of pretension leaves a bad taste behind.

But no one can say Stevens didn’t try with this album. His use of sound — weird, industrial samples that lean into electronic dystopia — is ingenious. Each would be simple on its own, but Stevens creates so many layers that each sound becomes something it wouldn’t be otherwise: revelatory. He builds off each one to create tension, building it up so high that the fall feels unnervingly anti-climatic.

It’s the same thing he does with his voice. Stevens’ vocals are mellow throughout almost the entirety of the album. But then we get a tiny glimpse into how much that voice can do when it soars, sticking us with a stratospheric high note or a tinge of inflection. Between the out-of-place samples and the monotone vocals, Stevens continually makes listeners feel like an ominous surprise could be

right around the corner.

Stevens has been on the music scene since 1999, and it shows. He knows exactly where to push away from pop, placing him outside the genre, before he pulls us tightly back in with a pop-inspired catchy hook or chorus. “The Ascension” is very clearly not a pop album, but that doesn’t stop Stevens from using pop techniques that will have us humming along to songs like “Video Games.”

“Video Games” is also one of the only tracks that truly focuses on lyrical storytelling. Other songs, like “Die Happy,” repeat the same lyric over and over again. This could be considered storytelling by some, but not in the typical way we expect from musicians. Stevens’s storytelling remains firmly rooted in production, not on his voice or his thoughts.

My one major qualm with “The Ascension” is that it is way too long. If a record is going to be over an hour, every song needs to be good. Listeners shouldn’t want to skip a track just so they can get through it.

That familiar, “OK, I get the point” feeling that arises when listening to albums that view themselves as artsy comes quick. Just like we can only look at so many Jackson Pollock paintings and be impressed, we can only listen to so many trippy songs without feeling like an artist is trying to teach us something that our mere mortal minds could not comprehend.

Sufjan Stevens has made a good record that accomplishes everything it wanted to. It’s unique and



pushes the artist to places he hasn’t previously explored. Listening to this album definitely makes a listener feel cool, probably cooler than their friends who don’t listen to it, but when coolness turns into pretension and listeners start having to skip tracks, that’s a real problem.



# UM football players tweet COVID complaints at health department

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Usually by this time in the semester, football games would be in full swing on the weekends, and the University of Montana campus would be flooded with fans cheering on the Grizzlies.

This year, though, weekends are quiet on campus. Football is nowhere to be found.

The goal of the Big Sky Conference decision to postpone the fall football season was to prevent coronavirus spread. On Sept. 25, UM reported having 76 cases of coronavirus. Close contacts could have reached from each case to an average of five additional people. The postponed season has caused frustration in athletes, coaches and fans alike.

In an email from UM in mid-September, Greek Life and Athletics were identified as COVID-19 clusters. Several athletes across UM Athletics were placed in quarantine. Earlier this week, Grizzly football players took to Twitter to talk about being in quarantine.

Redshirt freshman Kale Edwards tagged the Missoula City-County Health Department and Missoula County in a tweet Sept. 18.

“Total deaths in MT from COVID to date: 143. State pop 1,070,000. By age group: ZERO deaths under 30. 1 death under 40. 5 total deaths under 50. But let’s quarantine the 18-22 year old football team?” Edwards tweeted.

Teammate Ryder Meyer, a sophomore, also tweeted about the football players being in quarantine.

“If we test NEGATIVE for Covid, meaning we have NOT contracted the virus, meaning we physically cannot pass it on to others because it is NOT in our system, we still have to socially isolate ourselves for 14 days. Why?” Meyer said in a tweet.

After the UM football players sent their tweets, the Missoula Health Department sent off a series of replies to both players’ tweets.

“The continuing presence of COVID is frustrating for our community, and it’s especially frustrating for those who have to quarantine even when they test negative,” the health department account responded. “For close contacts to a positive case, a negative test on a particular day merely indicates you do not have COVID on that day.”

The health department went on to explain that close contacts need to quaran-



The Washington Grizzly Champions Center at the University of Montana on Nov. 12, 2019. COLTON ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

tine for 14 days because of the two-week incubation period for the virus. Symptoms can develop at any time in those 14 days, so while someone might test negative immediately, they still have a chance of developing symptoms later on.

According to a Missoulian article published Friday, both Edwards and Meyer have since apologized for their tweets.

For Griz football fans, as well as those who work around the team, the fall without football is taking an effect.

“I sense that whether it’s players, students, people of Montana or staff, they’re all very depressed that we don’t have football on Saturdays, including me,” Bobby Hauck, head coach of the UM football team, said in an interview.

Eric Taber, the Director of Communications for Grizzly football, agreed.

“Grizzly football affects not just people in the athletic department and at the University, but people throughout the whole community,” Taber said.

He added that, even though many are disappointed without the football season,

people generally understand.

“Playing sports might not be the best idea with a pandemic that’s going around the world,” Taber said.

As far as game day workers go, Taber said the UM athletic department was running an elite operation and has seen no real drastic employment changes. He added that employees who work only on game days will be needed when football returns to help run a world-class game day experience.

As for students on campus, freshman finance major Herman Haw said campus feels dull this year without football.

“It definitely feels like we’re missing something, and like there’s a lot less pride on campus,” he said.

Hauck said that, while the team has been working out together since early June, they have yet to hold an official practice. The team also had its spring practices cut short, only being able to hold six out of 15 spring practices. The Big Sky Conference has said teams will be playing in a spring season. Weber State, a fellow

Big Sky Conference team located in Ogden, Utah, has already held full football practices in the fall of 2020.

“I’m still trying to digest the feasibility of a spring season,” Hauck said.

Hauck said he isn’t sure what will be different in January and February for Grizzly football to be able to play that is not in place now. He said he needs to get some questions answered before he proceeds in any way.

While attending games is a safety concern for coronavirus, Hauck said the chance of someone getting COVID-19 just by playing football is miniscule.

The office of UM President Seth Bodnar has been encouraging students in campus-wide emails to be careful in their social interactions off campus in order to minimize the spread of coronavirus. They have emphasized that safety procedures taken on campus are minimizing coronavirus spread in classrooms and campus events, and that much of the spread is due to off-campus activities.

# Griz baseball staying ready for spring

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Most baseball teams have nine players on the field and a dugout full of backups, the University of Montana Grizzly Club Baseball team has a skeleton crew of 10 players total.

“We’re just out here, playing some baseball with the boys, trying to stay safe, keep with the precautions,” Kennedy McKay said, the president of the UM’s Grizzly Club Baseball team.

McKay can often be seen joking around with his teammates as he touts a colorful face mask.

The UM baseball team is one of the few club teams still practicing during the pandemic. Practice includes masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing, which isn’t hard for the 10 players in the sea of grass and sand.

But the team hasn’t been immune to the effects of COVID-19 this year. Since there are no scholarships for club sports and kids choose to play once they arrive at school, fall’s “recruitment season” is drastically shorter than usual.

Head coach Nick Rackley said that in a normal year, recruitment revolves around networking and connection among students on campus in a variety of methods. These include hanging up posters and attending the Griz welcome event.

“We’re hoping to pick up a few more before the end of fall, maybe a couple in the spring if we can start getting some more classes back on campus,” Rackley said.

Rackley also said that often once a player joins the team, he recruits friends and roommates who also play baseball.

The UM baseball team is a part of the National Club Baseball Association. Rackley said that, as of right now, the association plans on the season on time in February.

“We play in the spring, so we’re pretty optimistic that we’re gonna have a season,” Rackley said.

Griz baseball is in the Northern Pacific East conference with Boise State, Idaho State, Utah State, Weber State and Montana State. None of the teams in the conference have backed out of the upcoming



Coach Nick Rackley rallies the University of Montana Grizzly Club Baseball team during practice on September 23, 2020. The National Club Baseball Association moved forward as usual with a season opener scheduled for February despite restrictions around COVID-19. MATTHEW TRYAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

season yet.

Other club sports on campus such as lacrosse and ultimate frisbee, have experienced a delay in season, but have continued practice through the fall.

The baseball team is made up of former American Legion players and a couple of transfers from different colleges, according to Rackley.

Rackley took over the head coaching position in the spring of 2018. He played Legion in high school and a year of baseball at junior college in Washington before transferring to UM and playing his last three years here. The year after he graduated, he joined the coaching staff to help take some of the weight off his predecessor and gained the head coaching position

not long after.

Rackley said that the year before he played was the last time that 30-man rosters were the norm.

“Since I started playing and coaching it’s been between 12 and 15 guys, a really tight-knit group,” he said.

The closeness of the small baseball team is put on display as the practice wraps up. McKay jokes with a teammate about how bad one of his teachers is. A few players compete to see who can shoot the most baseballs into a bucket. Rackley invites the whole team to a dinner at Applebee’s.

McKay said he is not worried about the future of his team. “Until we can’t play, we’re gonna keep playing.”

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