



THE QUIET EXTINCTION

Caribou have vanished from Montana, and scientists fear they could be beyond saving

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The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. 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, "Qeymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message," or "paper that brings news."

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Women's Running magazine is looking for a senior editor for its print, video, digital and social media platforms.

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UM needs to sort out its priorities

Last February, professors and students working in the Clapp Building told the Kaimin that masking tape on the ceiling tiles was UM's defense against their crumbling and potentially releasing asbestos particles into the air.

While the decades-old Clapp Building constructed in 1971 received funding for renovations of its top two floors in 2008, more than a decade has passed without any further progress. Proposals submitted to the Montana Board of Regents for further asbestos abatement remain unapproved while tiles rot above the heads of staff, students and professors. Above those tiles rests deteriorated bits of fireproof-

ing-made from the carcinogenic material that permeates the building.

The presence of asbestos in the Clapp Building is not only dangerous to the people in the building, but it also prevents improvements to the building like installing projectors in classrooms, according to Andrew Ware, professor and chair in the University's department of physics and astronomy, last January.

Yet, the University is choosing to prioritize renovations in two of the most recently constructed buildings on campus - Pantzer Hall and the Fitness and Recreation Building. As part of the new retail bonds UM received in September, it

is spending over \$5 million on these two projects, most of which are cosmetic improvements.

UM Housing will add a new color scheme to the inside and the outside of the building, replace furniture and install new carpet in Pantzer Hall. It is the newest dorm on campus, built in 1995. The dorm's \$4 million renovation costs about half of what it cost to build it.

"The things that you see and notice will be all newly done," the Missoula campus architect for the University of Montana, Jameel Chaudhry told the Kaimin in a recent interview.

Campus Rec will also be spending over

\$1 million on a cosmetic renovation to the Fitness and Recreation Building over the summer. The department is concerned about ten year old equipment, slower wifi in the basement and unappealing paint.

Well, kudos to UM for taking care of these very pressing problems. Campus health and safety will just have to wait.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

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:

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

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

BRIEFS & BLOTTER	4	FEATURE	12-17
NEWS	5-8	ARTS	18-19
CALENDAR	9	HOROSCOPE	20
ART GALLERY	10-11	SPORTS	21-24



PHISHY PHISHY PHONE SCAM

UMPD warned students Feb. 15 of giving information over the phone to unknown callers even if the caller ID seems official. A University of Montana student reported a phone call on Feb. 14 from a caller who identified himself as the chief of UMPD asking for \$2,000 to avoid an arrest. This comes just after the last warning from the University about email scams on Feb. 13 urging the campus community to be cautious of impersonation scams and to take advantage of the DUO two factor log in on UM's website. (Sydney Akridge)

UM'S FOOD PANTRY CELEBRATES ONE YEAR

The Food Pantry celebrated its one year anniversary Feb. 10 in the University Center. The pantry was organized in 2018 by graduate student Kat Cowley with help from the Basic Needs and Security Committee and the Associated Students of the University of Montana. The pantry also partners with the Missoula Food Bank and collects donations throughout the year. With the main food pantry in the UC and a handful of Grizzly cupboards around campus available to students, it has served over 500 students since it opened last February, according to volunteer Sarah Poole. The UM Food Pantry is open from noon-5 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Fridays. It is located near the ASUM office on the first floor of the UC. (SA)

BOZEMAN PATIENT CONFIRMED NOT TO HAVE CORONAVIRUS

Test results for a person in Bozeman who the Gallatin City-County Health Department suspected to have coronavirus, came back negative Friday, Feb. 14, according to a press release. The individual had been isolated at the Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital since Monday, Feb. 10. There have been 15 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the U.S., all of which occurred after individuals

traveled from China. Since the new respiratory illness spread in Wuhan, China, cases have been confirmed in California, Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. Fever, cough and shortness of breath are all symptoms of the disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (Lena Dore)

UM ALERT ISSUED FOR SHOOTING DOWNTOWN

Police shut down eight blocks of downtown Missoula near the Missoula Police Department and Mountain Line transfer station Wednesday, Feb. 12, after a patrol car's back window was reportedly shot through. No one was injured. City buses were rerouted and UM students were advised to avoid travel near Spruce, Pine, Ryman and Woody streets. The Health Department, Missoula Public Library, Partnership Health Center and the Missoula County Courthouse were also placed on lockdown. Though police found no suspect, the lockdown was lifted later that afternoon. (LD)

FEB. 14 ASSIGNED AS MISSOULA'S MISSING AND MURDERED WOMEN AWARENESS DAY

Less than a month after 16-year-old Selena Not Afraid was found dead in Big Horn County and about two years after 24-year-old Jermain Charlo disappeared near the Orange Street Food Farm, the Missoula City Council proclaimed Feb. 14 as Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Awareness Day. According to national statistics, almost half of all Native American women in the United States have been raped, beaten or stalked by an intimate partner. Native American women are also more than twice as likely to experience sexual assault and are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average. The National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Day is on May 5. (LD)



Resident hall woes, campfires and rap lyrics

ALEX MILLER

@michael6.miller@umontana.edu

DANTE FILPULA ANKNEY

@dante.filpulaankney@umontana.edu

2/7 HERBIE STRIKES BACK

Around midnight, officers responded to calls from neighbors that a red Volkswagen Beetle's alarm was going off. The owner was notified but seemed content to allow the neighbors to suffer from the Beetle's cry.

2/8 IRON CHEF: ABER HALL EDITION

Grizwalk reported that some outdoor enthusiasts were having a fire outside of Aber Hall after midnight. Officers responded only to find the suspects roasting weenies on a gas-powered camp stove. No citations were given, and the outdoor chefs were allowed to continue their culinary journey.

2/9 YOU COULD'VE JUST KNOCKED

While making rounds in Craig Hall, RAs discovered that a bathroom door had been broken. A work order was called in, but upon further inspection by the carpenter, it appeared the door had been booted in by a bathroom bandit. Without a motive, officers classified the case as criminal mischief. If you gotta go, just knock.

2/10 WASHED UP

A man in his 40s dialed 911 after he hurt his wrist playing basketball at Schreiber gym. He was transported to the hospital and was told that he had dislocated his wrist. There comes a time in everyone's life when they should walk away from the game they love. This may be that day.

2/11 IT'S JUST A SONG...

Officers responded to the UC after a woman reported two males wearing red bandanas directing offensive language toward her. The two males insisted that they were not directing their language at the woman but instead, loudly reciting some dope rap lyrics.

2/12 A SECRET MESSAGE

Officers responded to Aber Hall after a roommate called over an offensive message written on whiteboard in either Japanese or Chinese. After deciphering via google translate, the roommate found the message to mean "dying bitch" and thought the roommate was threatening them. The crafty insult was enough to get the student referred for student conduct.

UM enrollment is down, but not everywhere

CAMERON KIA WEIX

cameron.kiaweix@umontana.edu

Grad students, international students and other groups have increased in numbers according to UM's spring census, even as the University's enrollment continues to decline.

As overall enrollment has shrunk again this semester, some categories of students are making up larger sections of the student body. Since 2015, spring censuses indicate certain groups have grown in numbers and percentages. This spring's census, released Feb. 11, follows these trends.

UM's enrollment has decreased by about a third since 2011, the biggest drop of any public flagship university in the past decade, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education. This has led to budget cuts and fewer instructors for students as employees accepted buyouts.

At a January meeting of the Budget Committee, Vice President for Operations and Finance Paul Lasiter said UM could be more than viable as an institution with about 12,500 students. The spring census counted a total enrollment of just under 10,000.

As undergraduates have dwindled in the past five years to just 5,800, graduate students have made up a larger portion of the University's enrollment. The census counted more than 2,500 graduate students this spring, an increase of more than 500 in the past five years. Graduates now compose about a quarter of UM's total enrollment.

International student enrollment has experienced a recent upswing, jumping from 575 in 2018 to more than 750 this spring. That's an increase to over 7% of total enrollment.

Out-of-state, full-time undergraduates, such as international students pay nearly \$19,000 more in tuition and fees than their in-state counterparts at UM, according to the Mon-



CONSTANCE DARLINGTON | MONTANA KAIMIN

tana University System website.

The number of students with disabilities on UM's main campus has risen in proportion over the past five years, from nearly 900 to more than 1,150. They currently make up over 13% of UM's enrollment on the main campus.

This spring's census also counted about 350 early admission and dual enrollment students at Missoula College, a drop of over 40% from 2019, but still higher than earlier years. Dual enrollment students are high schoolers who enroll in college classes.

Last spring, Missoula College had a spike in these categories of students with around 600. That was more than three times the previous year's number and composed about a third of the college's enrollment.

Upcoming Event!

GRIZ HOUSING AND COMMUNITY FAIR

2020

Explore off-campus housing options and related services in Montana

March 26, 2020
10am - 2pm
University Center Atrium

ASUM RENTER CENTER

Student concerned about safety after Lewis and Clark burglary

DANTE FILPULA ANKNEY
dante.filpulaankney@umontana.edu

A burglar stole two laptops, Beats headphones and six dollars' worth of change Feb. 6 after climbing through a second story window at the Lewis and Clark apartment.

Meredith Iams, a sophomore history major, and her roommate Madison Lovett, a senior psychology major, left the apartment at 7:15 p.m. for a dance recital at the University. They returned about two hours later.

It wasn't until Lovett wandered around the apartment looking for her laptop that she noticed the belongings were missing.

"We were both like 'Oh my god. Somebody was here.' Somebody took our stuff," Iams said.

Iams called University of Montana police and reported the burglary. She and Lovett told the responding officer that they had a key card taped to the inside of their screen because they kept locking themselves out.

The officer, Iams and Lovett figured that the burglar found the key card and entered through the front door. That was until the next morning, when Iams and Lovett couldn't find their cat, Lennon.

Iams and Lovett eventually found Lennon, named after the famous Beatles singer, on the roof. She was getting something out of the hallway pantry when she saw him sprint by her bedroom window. He had jumped through Iams' window, from which the roof is accessible. He had made it to the roof through the window, which was missing a screen.

Iams decided to search the ground outside for the screen. She found it lying on the ground about 50 feet away from her window. She knew it was hers because there was blue paste on it - the same blue paste she uses to hang up her pictures in her room.

"I was really freaked out at that point. Obviously this doesn't just end up here," Iams said.

Iams called the police again and told a different officer what she had found. A University Villages manager checked the recorded swipes for entering the apartment, but found that no swipes had occurred at the front door during the two hours the women were at the dance recital.

With no swipes at the door during the



The view out of Meredith Iams' window. The screen was knocked out and is likely the path the intruders took to break in. EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

time frame of the crime and the missing window screen, UMPD concluded that the burglar had entered through the window.

Iams and UMPD pinged the general location of one laptop through Apple's "Find My" app, which can find the location of Apple products. Iams' laptop was in Missoula's South Hills.

UMPD officers knocked on the doors at two potential houses in the vicinity shown by the app; The visits resulted in a lead in the investigation.

"We did get a name, so we're trying to follow up with that person to see if they might be involved in it," Brad Giffin, UMPD Community Liaison officer, said.

Iams has to buy a new laptop, and is currently trying to rewrite three essays. She said she has concerns with how the burglary was handled.

She said UMPD hasn't communicated with her much, and that talking to different officers has been confusing. Both Iams and Lovett said they are worried that they were being watched prior to the burglary. The roommates often left the lights on, and one roommate was usually home, Iams said.

Iams said she is also worried about other residents at Lewis and Clark. She was surprised that no campus-wide alert was issued after UMPD was notified about the burglary.

The burglary occurred a day after UMPD responded to two separate complaints about potential home break-ins at UM housing on Jan. 29 and Jan. 31. Both complaints were found not to be threats, so UMPD closed the cases.

Iams said she believes students might think that there is nothing to worry about anymore with the two cases being closed.

Giffin said UM alerts are issued when one of three incidents occur. An emergency notification is issued when there is an event that threatens the safety of campus-goers and the University believes it is necessary for individuals to take action to protect themselves. A timely warning is issued when a crime is committed on campus and is reviewed by UMPD as a continuous danger to the campus community. Last, a public safety alert is discretionary and issued when UMPD believes it is necessary for the campus community to know a threatening event is taking place, according to Giffin.

As of now, the burglary at Iams' and Lovett's apartment is still an open case.

"They're still working on finding our stuff, but I honestly don't really think it's going to happen," Iams said.



The window on the second floor of Lewis and Clark where the intruder possibly broke in. Residents believe the intruder climbed up the beam and pulled themselves onto the roof. The window was open. EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

Protestors stand in solidarity against Coastal GasLink pipeline

ALEX MILLER
michael6.miller@umt.edu

Protestors halted traffic on a Higgins Avenue crosswalk outside of El Cazador Friday evening in response to growing unrest about the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline in Canada.

The protestors lined up on the crosswalk during rush hour to protest recent arrests of tribal leaders in British Columbia, Canada.

Claire Charlo, an advocate for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, acted as a spokesperson for the largely anonymous group. Charlo called for an action of solidarity with Wet'suwet'en protestors in British Columbia who are fighting against the building of the Coastal GasLink pipeline on what they consider to be their traditional land.

Three female Wet'suwet'en tribal leaders were arrested Monday during a ceremony following the blocking of commuter trains in Vancouver, Canada. This spurred the Wet'suwet'en to call for an international day of solidarity, which Charlo and her group answered.

"The fact that people are being mildly inconvenienced compared to women being forcibly arrested during a ceremony, there is no comparison," Charlo said.

The group of nearly 30 people held handmade signs with a variety of slogans like "Don't be a fossil fool," and "Our hearts are with Unist'ot'en," the latter of which was painted on a large, pink heart made of cardboard.

The Missoula police responded to the demonstration after a complaint that the group was making it too difficult to turn at the light. Cpr. Patrick Malone said officers determined that the group was not breaking any laws and were allowed to protest in the crosswalk.

The group continued along Higgins heading toward the Missoula County Courthouse. When they arrived, the group circled around Charlo and other vocal members directly in front of the gray stone steps of the building.

"Thank you, everybody, for putting your lives and bodies on the line," Charlo said to the crowd.

Brandon Fish, a University of Montana student, was one of the vocal members in the center of the group. Fish said that the protest is meant to make people aware of how Indigenous peoples are being forcibly removed from their land for the benefit of oil and gas companies.

"What's happening in Canada is going to happen here in Montana," Fish said.

Fish pointed out that the Trump Administration is mirroring the direction of the Canadian government under Justin Trudeau by ignoring and bypassing environmental laws and review processes to push the Keystone XL pipeline forward in Montana.

The Trump administration approved the building of the Keystone XL pipeline through Montana in January. According to the approval signed by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, the pipeline will cut through 46 miles of land that is held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Land Management.

"It's a destruction of our rights not only as Indigenous people but as Montanans," Fish said. "This is going against our own statehood and state constitution."

The group has plans to stage more protests in the coming weeks.

Corrections have been made to this article to better reflect the reason for the protest, Claire Charlo's position within the protest group and the involvement of the Missoula police.



TOP: Claire Charlo, an advocate for the Confederate Salish and Kootenai tribes, speaks during the gathering, addressing the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipelines on what the Wet'suwet'en tribe considers their territories in British Columbia, Canada. The protestors started on Higgins Avenue, and concluded their gathering in front of the Missoula County Courthouse, late afternoon Friday, Feb. 14, 2020.

BOTTOM: A protester who identified herself as a Missoula mom shouts during a gathering in support of the Wet'suwet'en tribe. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Rec Center prepares for a \$1 million makeover

CAMERON KIA WEIX
cameron.kiaweix@umontana.edu

University of Montana Campus Recreation plans to spend roughly \$1 million on renovations and new equipment in the Fitness and Recreation Center starting this spring.

The University refinanced debt in 2019, freeing up funds in the budget for Campus Recreation. Now, Campus Recreation plans to use these funds to paint the Rec Center and buy new equipment from stationary bikes to paddle boards.

Steve Thompson, director of Campus Recreation, said the department plans to spend the money solely on upgrades affecting students. Noelle Senner, a junior, said the Rec Center could use new cable weight machines.

"I'm a trainer here, so I definitely think this needs to happen," Senner said.

Officials at Campus Recreation are mainly focused on replacing equipment with moving parts, but they are also hoping to purchase new weights like kettlebells and weight poles, according to Thompson. He said almost all the cardio equipment would be replaced, including ellipticals, step-climbers and treadmills, some of which are nine years old and have outdated phone chargers.

Jenna Fairfield, a junior, said she likes the Rec Center overall but the spin bikes she uses wobble too much and should be replaced.

Planned improvements include better Wi-Fi in the basement and a new coat of paint inside the building, according to Thompson. He said the building hasn't been painted since it was built in 2000.

Thompson said Campus Recreation's budget relies on fees and rentals rather than tuition, but is still affected by enrollment. He said since his arrival at UM in 2013, the annual budget has shrunk from around \$4 million to about \$3.1 million. UM's enrollment has

declined by roughly a third since 2011.

Thompson said Campus Recreation's debt came from building the Rec Center and renovating the Grizzly Pool about two decades ago.

The University refinanced outstanding debt and issued new bonds last fall, according to a press release. Thompson said Vice President for Operations and Finance Paul Lasiter led the effort to stretch out Campus Recreation's debt over a longer period of time at a lower rate.

Bond payments previously cost over \$800,000 for Campus Recreation — about a quarter of its annual budget. Thompson said the new payments would compose around a fifth of the budget at over \$600,000, though that's subject to change.

Lasiter was not available for an interview upon request with the Montana Kaimin.

Campus Recreation also plans to replace older rental equipment for camping, cross country skiing and rafting, according to Thompson. He said some of the rafts are 18 years old.

"The rafts have really taken a hammering," Thompson said. "Some of them are more patch than raft at this point."

Other replacements would include an industrial lawn mower for the rugby and intramural fields south of campus. Thompson said the current mower is about 10 years old and needs frequent repairs.

NIRSA, a membership organization for campus recreation, will host its annual conference April in Phoenix, Arizona, according to its website. Thompson said Campus Recreation plans to attend the conference to meet with equipment vendors.

Thompson said he hopes to have most of the work done over the summer so the Rec Center is ready by the beginning of fall semester.

"I want them to come in the building and be wowed," Thompson said



The inside of the Campus Recreation center. The roughly \$1 million in renovations will include a new coat of paint for the inside, replacing cardio equipment like treadmills and outdoor equipment like rafts.
CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Just a whole lotta film stuff this week!

Wednesday 19

TIME STUDIOS AND BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL ON CAMPUS

Wondering how a film becomes a film? Come to the Montana Media Lab and let "Paradise without People" director Francesca Trianni and producer Justine Simons talk about how a story from TIME Magazine went from article to feature film.

Montana Media Lab, UM School of Journalism, 9:30 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

FILM SCREENINGS: "DEAR GEORGINA" AND "FIRST LIGHT"

"Dear Georgina" is a feature film at this year's Big Sky Documentary Film Fest, and you can go to a screening of it right on campus, sponsored by the Native America Studies department and the Humanities Institute. "Dear Georgina" is the story of Georgina Sappier-Richardson, who was removed from her home and Passamaquoddy community in Maine by Child Protection Services at age 2. Co-director and cinematographer Ben Pender-Cudlip will also be available for conversation after the screening. Payne Family Native American Center, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Thursday 20

FREE PHYSICAL THERAPY CONSULTATIONS

Is studying literally a pain in the neck right now? The UM Physical Therapy Clinic has your back. Also literally. Stop by for a free drop-in consultation.

UC UMHM Clinic, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

STORIES OF WE (WORKPLACE EQUITY)

The Women's Leadership Initiative will be holding a panel on the topic of workplace equity, sharing stories about issues that women confront in the workplace and developing strategies for creating a more inclusive organizational culture. Free and open to the public.

Phyllis J. Washington Education Center ALI Auditorium, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

PREMIERE: "THE HOUSE THAT ROB BUILT"

Coach Rob Selvig and the Lady Griz basketball team he had led to success are featured in this Big Sky Documentary Film Fest premiere. Selvig finished his run ranked eighth among all women's basketball coaches, with 865 victories and only 286 losses. The Lady Griz is a NCAA Division I team competing in the Big Sky Conference, and plays some of the top teams in the country.

The Wilma, 6 p.m.

Friday 21

WOLF & THE MOONS AT HIGHLANDER BEER

Wolf & the Moons performs LIVE at the Highlander TapHouse. All ages are welcome.

Highlander Brewing, 6 p.m.

Saturday 22

SPRING PERCUSSION: JUPITER

Join the School of Music for the amazing Spring Percussion Concert — "Jupiter" from Gustav Holst's "The Planets," featuring UM Percussion Ensembles and the (Islanders) Steel Band. Tickets are available through GrizTix, \$11 general admission and \$5 for students.

Dennison Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL - SHORTS BLOCK #16

Want to join in the fun of film fest right before it ends? Head to the Elks Lodge for a special screening of five short films featured this year. The block features "Spit on the Broom," "Peter's Painting," "Dear Georgina," "Brewed in Palestine," and "Colette." Tickets are \$7 for students, \$10 general.

Elks Lodge, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday 23

BRRRS AND BEERS: A RETRO SNOW PARTY

Join Highlander Beer and REI for a retro snow day. Show up in your grooviest ski gear and test out REI's rental cross country skis and snowshoes in Highlander's outdoor space. Compete in Gelande Quaffing starting at 3:30 p.m. for a chance to win great prizes from Highlander and REI. All ages welcome.

Highlander Brewing, 2 p.m.

Tuesday 24

COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES: 'TRAINS, DOLLS AND DEMANDS ON THE DEVIL: THE PRECARIOUS POSITION OF MINORITY RIGHTS'

Join History Professor Tobin Miller Shearer, the director of UM's African-American Studies program, for a lecture as part of the UM Alumni Association's Community Lecture Series, "Honoring the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and What it Means to Be an American." Shearer conducts research into the history of race and religion in the United States with a particular emphasis on prayer, the civil rights movement and white identity.

University Center Theater, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC!
Thurs/Fri, Feb. 20th & 21st
Wayne Brothers and the Nightlife Band
Saturday, Feb. 22nd
Shakedown Country

KARAOKE
Sundays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays!

Red Solo Cup Wednesdays!

SUNRISE Saloon
\$2.00 Drafts

1100 Strand 728-1559

UM artist invites us to face our trash at the UC Gallery exhibit 'One Year Later'

MEGHAN JONAS
meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

You're greeted with a sheet when you walk into the small gallery. It's not a plastic drop cloth for painting but it could easily be used as one. It's a quilt that was sewn together. And the material? A year's worth of post-consumer plastic.

UM artist Zoe Sykora's UC Gallery exhibit "One Year Later" examines the waste we produce and how trash can become something beautiful.

According to a study by The Royal Statistical Society, 91% of plastic isn't recycled. That means by 2050, there will be 12 million tons of plastic waste in landfills.

Sykora saw how much plastic she was using firsthand working in retail and at Missoula's Good Food Store. Though a majority of the products at Good Food Store can be bought without traditional plastic packaging, Sykora said that it all has to arrive in something. She started collecting all of the plastic that would end up in a landfill and evaluating her own consumer habits.

Stepping through the plastic quilt, distorted light from two more plastic sheets wraps around you.

This is an in-between space. It feels distorting and slightly familiar. Sykora said this is intentional. She designed this small space to subconsciously remind visitors of the small space between the door of a grocery store and the rest of the store where people get their carts.

According to Waste Management Northwest, 100 billion plastic bags are used every year in the United States. Sykora

started collecting a plastic bag full of plastic bags under her friends' sinks and decided to start using those as part of her post-consumer art practice.

A giant web of plastic hovering over two benches greets you as you duck under plastic sheets. Sitting under this, and realizing what this is, feels disconcerting. This massive spiderweb is made of the plastic bags Sykora has been collecting. It's easy to see the bags you might have used in the past week. One bag only makes about four inches of the crocheted web, Sykora said. The web itself spans an entire wall and drapes up the ceiling. Let's just say this web required much more than a plastic bag full of bags to be the size it is.

Opposite the web is a 40- by 12-foot quilt of post-consumer plastic. This is where Sykora's other job, retail, comes in. She explains that whole shipments of shirts or other clothing items would come individually wrapped in their own plastic bag. Sykora would end a day of restocking the store she works at by taking home garbage bags full of plastic to prevent it from going into a landfill.

The quilt reaches up the wall of the gallery and over the roof to meet the web. This part on the ceiling also includes a large bag that Sykora's mattress came in. "There's really no way to reuse that," she said, shrugging.

You enter the last piece of the exhibit, a brightly-lit graveyard. Meat trays covered in felt with individual and unique laser-etched brands sit on growing grass plots. This is Sykora's version of a final resting place. Sykora, a vegetarian, was inspired by the meat industry's treatment of

animals to transform typical meat trays, given to her by friends and adviser, into soft areas of rest.

To her, these meat trays represent so much more than a meal, they represent a life. The grass, grown over the course of a few weeks, was Sykora's way of showing all the things the caged animals didn't have in life, like a grassy wide-open area to live in.

The gallery is not what Sykora's friend and fellow artist Erica Selby expected. Selby and Sykora spent long days in the studio together working on their own projects, giving Selby a detailed look at how Sykora was using post-consumer trash, including her own.

Selby and UM art professor Cathryn Mallory brought Sykora a fair amount of trash. This could be anything from newspaper sleeves to plastic bags to odd bits of plastic found on various pieces of packaging.

Selby was expecting something more dystopian, not the airy matter-of-fact exhibit that Sykora ended up creating. When Sykora was growing her plots of grass with purple grow lights, Selby would enter into her studio jokingly asking, "Is this now like a nightclub?"

Sykora intends to keep using post-consumer waste in her art, as well as becoming more sustainable in her own practice. Whether that's picking up litter at a tailgate for an art piece that she's done, or using non-toxic materials, Sykora is trying to build an art practice that can make a difference in more ways than one.

"One Year Later" will be on exhibit at the UC Gallery until Feb. 28. The Gallery is open from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m, Monday through Friday.



Framed in a wooden box sits styrofoam meat packaging, felted over with wool, and embossed with a laser burned emblem to signify the animal once contained within the case. "It's to do with the meat industry," said Sykora. "We waste materials, but we also waste the lives of living beings." HAZEL CRAMER | MONTANA KAIMIN



Zoe Sykora sits in her gallery made out of a year's worth of collected consumer trash. "I call this my web," Sykora said. "This is all crocheted plastic bags, and one bag would make maybe four inches of this chain."

In "One Year Later," there are two sections to the exhibit: the plastic draperies and a small memorial for animal lives. "I wanted to make an environment installation," Sykora said. "That way people would have to walk through and face all this plastic."



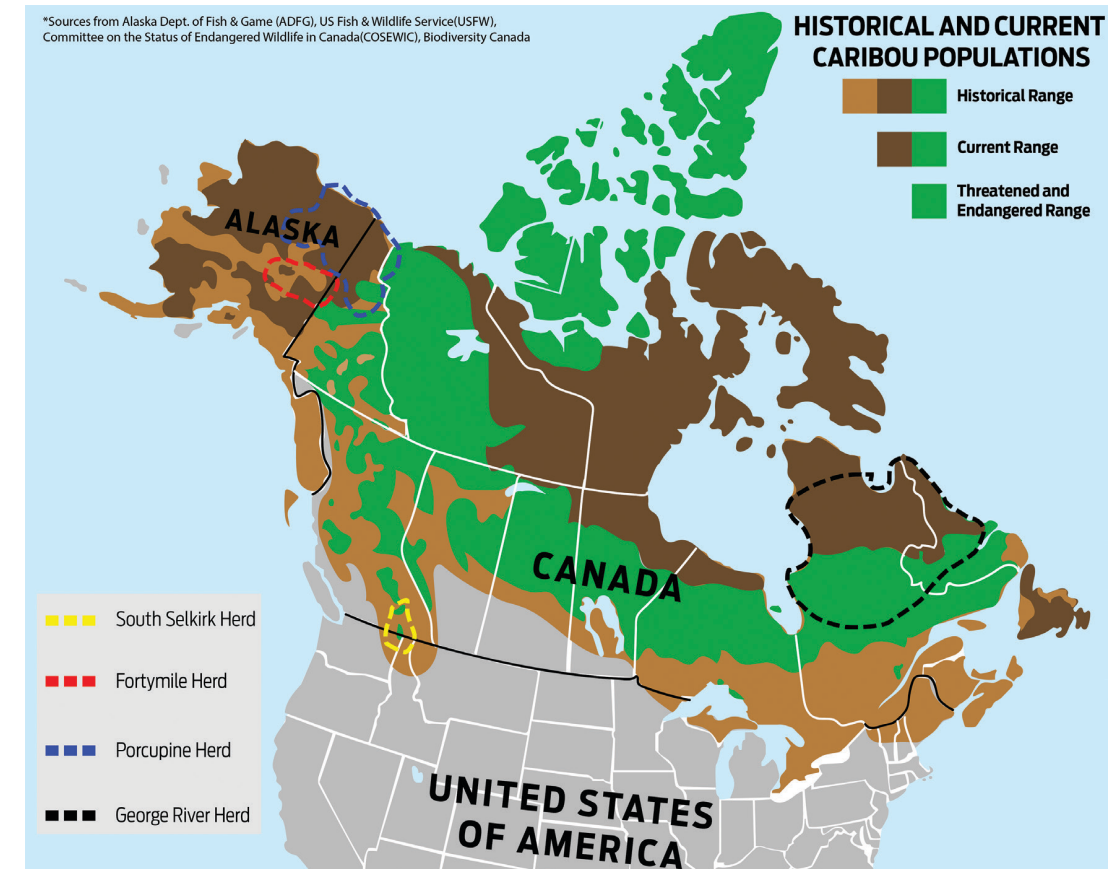
THE QUIET EXTINCTION

Caribou have vanished from Montana, and scientists fear they could be beyond saving



STORY BY
VICTOR YVELLEZ

A caribou cow from the Barkersville herd runs back to its group after getting momentarily separated from them. The Barkersville herd, located in central British Columbia, was last estimated at 72 individuals in 2016. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | VICTOR YVELLEZ



University of Montana wildlife biologist Eric Palm poses with a set of caribou antlers his team retrieved during their expedition in Alaska and the Yukon region. Palm and his fellow teammates spent time in the territories studying caribou migrations based on fire seasons that affected the species' habitats. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

The harsh landscapes of the tundra and old-growth forests blanket much of North America. Caribou herds once abundantly thrived from the western coast of Alaska to the eastern fronts of Canada, but that is no longer the case.

Caribou migrate longer distances than any other mammal on Earth. They learn to stand and walk almost immediately after birth. They run alongside their mothers within days. Mature adults can reach speeds of 45 miles per hour.

While Eric Palm, a Ph.D. student at the University of Montana, feels confident chasing down a 2-day-old caribou, the same animal would be nearly uncatchable just a week later.

Palm's research focuses on the elusive animal, which was seen near Whitefish, Montana as recently as November 2018. The final herd of the Lower 48, the South Selkirk herd, officially became extinct just weeks later, likely cementing the extinction of the species south of the Canadian border.

As part of a long-term study on calf survival, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game puts radio collars on newborn caribou from the Fortymile herd near Fairbanks. Palm first collared calves in 2017.

On the morning of Palm's first day of collaring, the helicopter closed in when they spotted a young-looking calf. The pilot then guided the propellers to hover a few feet off the ground. As the helicopter descended, Palm stood on the edge, waiting for the pilot to give him the go-ahead. He knew when to jump after the first time.

Landing on the uneven, snow-covered terrain was jarring, and Palm worked hard sprinting down the calf. One or 2-day-old calves run slow, but each passing day their squishy hooves harden and become built for speed.

"If they were 10 days old, there is no way I'd get to them," said Palm later at UM's campus. "They'd just crush me."

Once Palm managed to capture the baby, the four-step process happened with familiarity: He weighed the calf, identified the sex, estimated the age and clasped on a collar, which would fall off once the calf

matured. The entire process took about one minute, then Palm ran back to the helicopter.

"They have a distinct smell, I don't quite know how to describe it," he said. "It's kind of like a barn."

Over two days, Palm collared 18 calves from the Fortymile herd, estimated at around 85,000 strong, a far cry from its historical estimates of 300,000.

Despite the two days of jumping from helicopters to wrangle calves, the bulk of Palm's research in Alaska involved drones. From May to July 2017, Palm flew a drone throughout the caribou habitat in Alaska and the Yukon territory. His research collected images and cross-referenced radio collar data to determine how caribou used terrestrial lichen coverage for their migrations. During the winter months, caribou solely rely on lichen, a food most ungulates of hoofed animals, belonging to the same family as cows, deer and bison completely avoid. His goal: to understand how fire and human disturbance affect caribou migrations.

The Fortymile herd, which migrates

throughout the area monitored by Palm, is one of only a handful of herds in North America that are either stabilizing or increasing. The majority of herds on the continent are in decline.

His research also extends to 40 herds throughout Alaska, Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories, Alberta and British Columbia. The tale is grim: every herd he studies, minus the Fortymile herd, has steadily declined since 2000.

Proposed roads, mining projects, forestry, agriculture and oil and gas development throughout Alaska and Western Canada, including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, threaten caribou herds across the continent. Because of resistance from commercial interests and political stagnation, caribou present one of the greatest terrestrial conservation problems in both the U.S. and Canada.

"It's the government's job to step in and use these emergency provisions under the Canadian Species at Risk Act," Palm said. "But, a lot of people's jobs could be negatively affected by this. It's caribou versus the economy."



The sun rises over a seismic line in the Kennedy-Siding herd range and a clear cut across the valley. Seismic lines, roads and clear cuts combine to affect caribou in different ways. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | VICTOR YVELLEZ



A lone wolf travels through Jasper National Park. Thousands of wolves have been culled in Western Canada to protect caribou populations from increased predation. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | VICTOR YVELLEZ



Ehlers and her son, Bechler, prepare their drone for flight. Drone imaging was used to gather imagery of fire disturbance and lichen coverage around the Fortymile herd range. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | LIBBY EHLERS



Wildlife biologist Libby Ehlers, 40, with her children Taela, 1, and Bechler, 5, hold up a scrapbook with photos of their time in Alaska and the Yukon territory. Ehlers did field research on herds of caribou there, while pregnant with Taela, along with her husband, Nick, and Bechler, then 3 years old. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Caribou are Tough, but Sensitive to Change

From the mountainous forests of Montana and British Columbia, to the boggy peatlands of the boreal forests in Alberta, and even out to the Alaskan tundra, caribou habitat varies dramatically.

There are currently four subspecies of caribou in North America: barren-ground, woodland, grants and peary. Barren-ground and woodland caribou represent the two largest subspecies of the social ungulate.

Barren-ground caribou, also known as tundra or migratory caribou, migrate farther than antelope, mule deer, wolves and even their close relatives, the reindeer. Going back a millennia, many barren-ground herds numbered in the hundreds of thousands, which is no longer the case due to changes in habitat, overhunting and climate change.

The two ecotypes of woodland caribou - boreal and mountain - were once abundant throughout Western Canada and into Washington, Idaho and Montana. According to the Committee on the Status of Endangered Species in Canada, the independent body which assesses the

status of wildlife species at risk of extinction, there are three types of mountain caribou: northern, central and southern. Evolving to have smaller herds than their barren-ground counterparts, their populations never reached more than a few thousand.

The scientific recognition of distinct subspecies and ecotypes emphasizes the variance between the species. Different populations might eat, migrate and act differently.



“Witnessing Extinction”

In 2019, a UN report highlighted the state of declining biodiversity and acceleration of species facing extinction. Caribou fall under the umbrella of one million species staring down extinction.

Scientists refer to caribou as an indicator species, which means their health shows the status of entire ecosystems. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, across all caribou and reindeer populations, the species has fallen from 5 to 2.1 million since the 1990s.

In the 1980s, the Quebec-based George River herd, the largest herd in North America at the time, numbered around one mil-

lion; recent estimates put the herd at 5,500. It was a dramatic collapse for one of the mightiest herds of any species worldwide.

With the disappearance of the South Selkirk and South Purcell herds, the southern extension of mountain caribou has been erased and the remainder moved up approximately 100 miles north into Canada.

Both woodland and barren-ground caribou remain threatened throughout all their ranges, and extinction looms without drastic change in human behavior.

Libby Ehlers, another Ph.D. candidate in wildlife biology at UM who studied wolves and caribou for over a decade, said both subspecies do not handle human impact well — they avoid it like they would predators.

Over the last 100 years, humans have continued to encroach deeper into old-growth forests, threatening most corners of habitat for a species that has evolved over millions of years.

Extirpation, or local extinction, has steadily occurred for over a decade throughout the Lower 48, British Columbia and Alberta.

Twelve herds in British Columbia have less than 25 individuals roaming their home

ranges fractured by the combination of forestry, oil and gas development and mining. Ehlers studied five herds during her masters research in British Columbia. One, the Burnt Pine herd, went extinct during her research. Thirty of British Columbia’s 52 herds are at risk of extirpation.

“Woodland caribou are in massive decline due to human development,” she said.

During the winter, caribou exclusively use the spongy vegetation lichen as a food source. It is vital to their survival. Caribou feed on two primary types of lichen, terrestrial and arboreal. Barren-ground mostly eat terrestrial, while woodland populations eat both. Lichen provides caribou the opportunity to live where many other ungulates cannot.

“Ecologically, caribou eat something that’s basically worthless,” said Mark Hebblewhite, a professor of wildlife ecology at UM, who studies ungulates and their predators around the world. “In the winter, it’s like living on styrofoam and Gatorade. How do they do it? They occupy this niche in ecosystems that nobody else wants.”

For woodland caribou, following the growth of lichen gave them the spatial

“It’s caribou versus the economy.”

separation to avoid predators altogether. Human impact, and changes in climate, threaten this critical food source.

Hebblewhite, who also advises Palm and Ehlers, observed the decline of caribou over the last 25 years throughout the northern landscapes. In the early 2000s, Hebblewhite worked with wolves in Banff National Park. One of his hobbies involved backpacking around the park to find woodland caribou. In 2009, the Banff herd had dwindled down to five individuals before an avalanche killed the remainder of the herd. He never saw a caribou in the park.



Family Business

Libby Ehlers was one-month pregnant when she chased down calves from the Fortymile herd in 2018.

In August, when she was five months pregnant, she and her family flew into Tok, a small town near the herd’s range. Her husband, Nick, and son, Bechler, spent the month with Libby researching caribou as a family. For five days, the family took a helicopter to four different sites in the Alaskan backcountry.

“It was an amazing experience to

be able to do this with my family,” said Ehlers, who acknowledges this wouldn’t have been possible without the support of many people around her. “We were trying to go to as many sites as we could to collect plants in high use caribou areas.”

After the backcountry, the family took a camper around as much of the caribou habitat as they could access with roads. Nick and Bechler helped with drone flying, plant measurements and plant and stool collection. The 3-year-old became pretty good at identifying lichen by the end of the month.

“There are fundamental field ecologists and biologists who have brought their families into the field,” Ehlers said. “This is part of the reason I took on this project, to experience the North and to research together as a family.”

Though the Fortymile herd is better off than most, changes in fire severity and precipitation impact how the species lives and moves through their home range. Ehlers estimates the Fortymile herd could be nearing its carrying capacity, threatened by less food availability from overuse and fire effects on their food sources. Climate change makes things worse.

“The rain-on-snow events that are starting to happen in the North is a big problem,” Ehlers said.

Unlike every other ungulate species, both male and female caribou grow antlers.

Using a combination of antlers, hooves and snouts, caribou crater down into the snow to hunt for lichen, their winter food source. Increasing freeze and thaw cycles make it difficult for caribou, as well as other species that rely on digging, to reach their winter meals.

Ehlers said these types of climate-driven impacts might affect whether populations survive or not.

Population collapse has happened before. The Fortymile herd plummeted to around 5,000 animals in the 1960s because of overhunting and predation effects. Scientists worry it may happen again, but not just from top-down pressures like overhunting and predators. Bottom-up pressures, such as fire severity affecting lichen availability or rain on snow events, are changing earth under their hooves.



The Predators

Ehlers studied wolves before caribou in Yellowstone and British Columbia. Wolves have become central to the conversation around caribou conservation in Western Canada.

Predators and caribou lived in bal-

ance for thousands of years, but the predator-prey dynamics of the region changed in the past century. Woodland caribou have felt the brunt of this effect.

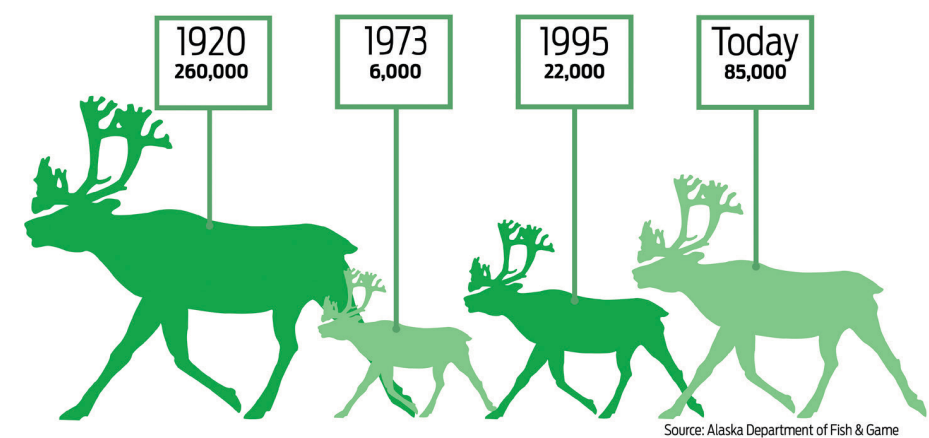
The accumulated effects of industry on the landscape have fractured habitat throughout the continent. Seismic lines, narrow corridors used to transport and deploy survey equipment, turn forests into corn-mazes. Roads and highways disconnected wildlife corridors. Large scale clearcutting by industry businesses disrupted old-growth forests.

As industry presence expanded, the forests that provided woodland caribou the spatial separation from other ungulates and predators were lost. Industry exploration and development grew, replacing old-growth forests with young vegetation. Moose and deer thrive in this habitat, and they began foraging areas avoided for thousands of years. Predators were right behind them.

Compounding issues have made it impossible for woodland caribou to survive on their own. Thousands of wolves have been killed throughout British Columbia and Alberta to save caribou, a move scientists agree is necessary for caribou to survive.

“If the province of British Columbia stopped killing wolves, they would guarantee the extinction of half of the province’s caribou herds,” Hebblewhite said.

Estimated Fortymile Herd Caribou Population (By Year)



Until the destruction of their historical ranges, wolves, bears, cougars and wolverines would undoubtedly kill the occasional woodland caribou, but focused on ungulates with higher returns, such as moose or deer. Caribou were considered secondary-prey options.

Hebblewhite said it likely wouldn't be uncommon for woodland caribou herds to go entire winters without seeing a wolf. Their ability to travel through deep snow and densely wooded peatlands was their defense. Separation afforded them safety. But without the separation, caribou cannot keep up with increased predation.

Most female caribou cannot give birth until their third year, and like humans, most only have one calf each year. For comparison, mule deer can reproduce after 18 months, usually birthing twins. Birth rates for woodland caribou never needed to be high, because they evolved to avoid predators and larger numbers would make their herds more noticeable.

Moreover, when wolf populations in the United States and Canada dropped in the 1960s, ungulates flourished through-

out the region. Though hunters might have loved these increased populations, ecosystems became extremely unbalanced. Deer and moose numbers exploded, and wolf numbers followed as they naturally repopulated areas around Banff and Jasper national parks in the 1980s, eventually making their way back to the Lower 48.

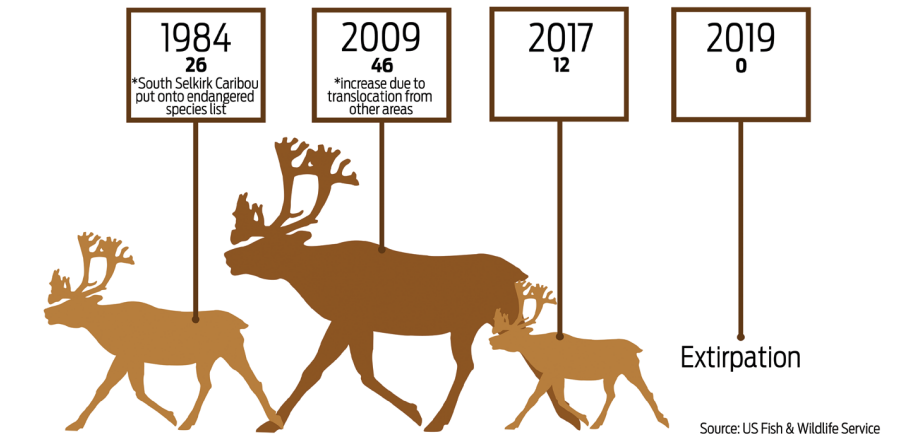
Combine increased wolf numbers with a fractured landscape and you get the problem facing the region today, an influx of primary-prey species and proliferating wolf populations.

"It's tragic if we are killing wolves and not protecting habitat," said Jody Hilty, president and chief scientist for the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, which aims to connect and protect habitat between the U.S. and Canada. "Wolves aren't endangered, caribou are endangered. But we can only support the culling of wolves if the government gets serious about conserving and protecting habitat."



"Even if we stopped all impact today, it would take 40 to 60 years for the land to return to its natural state to positively impact caribou."

Estimated South Selkirk Caribou Population (By Year)



The Economics of Conservation

Over the last century, the rural economies of Canada and the U.S. grew to rely on forestry, mining and other industries. Protecting caribou has put the provincial and federal governments of Canada in a bind.

The Canadian authorities have failed to enforce protection of critical habitat under the Species at Risk Act, fearing caribou conservation might crumble certain parts of the economy.

"The Endangered Species Act was written in 1969, and revised in 1972. It's had almost 50 years of testing, prodding, case studies. In Canada, our Species at Risk Act was written in 2002," said Hebblewhite, who grew up in Ontario. "By the time the first recovery plan for caribou came out in 2012, we're not even a decade old."

Hebblewhite said SARA lacks the bite the ESA might have to protect species, and Mountain caribou protection is happening too slowly for many herds. The disappearance of the South Selkirk herd represents the first large mammal species to go extinct in the U.S. since the passing of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

"You might remember seeing those bumper stickers, 'Save a logger, eat an owl.' Caribou and the spotted owl are very similar. They are both very controversial issues," Hebblewhite said. He said the parallels between spotted owls and caribou are similar both ecologically and politically.

The spotted owl controversy of the late '80s into early '90s inflamed the conversation around endangered species in the U.S.

and remains one of the ESA's largest test cases. Endangered Species Act enforcement threatened the forestry industry that employed many throughout the Pacific Northwest. A similar scene is playing out in Canada today.

Oil and gas development, forestry, mining and agriculture highlight the industry presence in the region. In Alberta, oil and gas account for 30% of the economy, according to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. Mineral, solid wood, pulp, paper and energy products account for 70% of exported goods and commodities from British Columbia, according to the province. Recreational activities, such as snowmobiling and heli-skiing operations, place further stress on the sensitive species.

Provinces currently oversee caribou recovery, which is notably failing. Enforcing SARA would pave the way for the federal government to intervene and control caribou recovery. Large scale recovery of a species at this scale has never been done in Canada, and time is running out.

"Even if we stopped all impact today, it would take 40 to 60 years for the land to return to its natural state to positively impact caribou," Hebblewhite said. "Half of the herds would go extinct by then."

The species that decorates the Canadian quarter is proving to be the ultimate conservation test for the federal and provincial governments of Canada.



The Fortymile caribou herd within their home range in Alaska. The herd spends most of the year on the U.S. side of the border, but travels in to Yukon Territory as well. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO | LIBBY EHLERS

The Way Forward

The South Selkirk herd was designated under the ESA in 1984 and teetered with extinction for over 30 years before they finally disappeared in early 2019. Ten months later, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strengthened protection for the extinct herd by placing all southern mountain caribou herds on the endangered species list.

In the Nov. 1 ruling, USFW said, "... (the) loss of the southern mountain caribou population would result in the loss of the only remaining population of the woodland caribou in the coterminous United States."

The ruling acknowledges the COSEWIC designations of different types of mountain caribou, a first in U.S.-Canadian caribou partnership. It also increases pressure on Canada to place the remaining 15 southern mountain herds on their endangered list. In Canada, southern mountain caribou are listed as threatened, not endangered. Its federal government has ignored COSEWIC recommendations for upgrading the herds. However, USFW rulings come a little too late for the Selkirk and Purcell herds.

Hebblewhite said it is unlikely caribou will ever return to the continental United States because there just isn't enough protected habitat for true recovery. Indigenous communities from Washington to Alberta to Alaska to Quebec revere caribou, a species integral to cultures throughout North America. Across Canada, many First Nations and non-treaty groups have given up their rights to harvest caribou.

Lacking government protection of habitat forced Indigenous groups and conservation groups to take ownership of their local caribou herds. Everything that can be done without habitat protection is being attempted: maternity penning, translocation of caribou to new herds, highway patrols during migration seasons, feeding programs and hunting moratoriums. Yet, none of these address the root issue of habitat loss. Like wolf control, these efforts are Band-Aid solutions.

"Many First Nations are charging forward to recover caribou on their own," said Hilty, whose conservation group is involved in protecting caribou throughout British Columbia into the U.S.

Palm, Ehlers and Hebblewhite agree

that proper management and habitat protection will be necessary to save herds. They also acknowledge the true effects of climate change on the species remain unknown.

In the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Indigenous and conservation groups have battled oil and gas interests for decades over drilling access. The refuge is home to the Porcupine herd, one of the largest remaining herds in North America. In 2017, the Trump administration and Congress worked to legalize oil drilling in the ref-

uge. This would lead to increased human impact in the region, the same issue that has led to decline and disappearance of the herds throughout the continent.

Hebblewhite said the opening of the Alaskan refuge for new drilling would highlight how we have not learned lessons from what the U.S. lost in bison or woodland caribou.

"I can talk all hopeful that maybe one day we'll get the ecosystem right, but somehow I doubt it," he said. "We're out of time for a lot of herds."

"I can talk all hopeful that maybe one day we'll get the ecosystem right, but somehow I doubt it... We're out of time for a lot of herds."

Big Sky Documentary Film Festival kicks off with heartbreak and sock puppets

LUKE SEYMOUR

luke.seymour@umontana.edu

Love was in the air at the ZACC Friday night as film lovers from all over the Missoula crowded into the main auditorium to witness the kickoff of the 17th annual Big Sky Documentary Film Festival.

Every year, the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival showcases some of the best short-form documentary filmmaking from around the country.

Since the first night of the festival fell on Valentine's Day, the theme of the night was love and all the joy, complexity and heartache that comes with it.

The festival began with "Take Me to Prom," a 21-minute film about an eclectic group of queer people interviewed about their prom experiences.

The subjects ranged from an 88-year-old gay man who reflected on his first crush from over sixty years ago, to a middle-aged drag queen who described her repeated sexual encounters in school bathrooms that resulted in expulsion.

One of the finer moments in the film came during its last moments, when all the people interviewed dress up in gowns and tuxedos and are filmed lavishly dancing, posing or simply enjoying who they are in that moment, with no judgment or threat of danger. Just admiration.

The film was an early crowd favorite, provoking much laughter and moments of somber reflection as this soulful and quirky band of outsiders bravely shared their stories with a willing audience.

"There was something about the prom experience that should be universal to everyone," said Catherine, a member of the audience. "And just to see that experience being restored these people who were denied it in their youth was very touching."

Although the two films that followed "Take Me to Prom" did not share the film's sunnier views on love and relationships, they were no less moving in their depictions of love as an existential force that can come to impact lives in unpredictable and sometimes devastating ways.

"Moment to Moment," directed by Mike Attie, is a heartbreaking look into the life of a retired science teacher named Carl as he struggles with the debilitating effects of Alzheimer's disease. One of the things that Carl does to keep his mind sharp is taking apart old televisions and removing their copper wiring.

We are also shown the experience of Carl's long-suffering wife, Susan, who must make a painful transition from lover to caretaker while also coming to terms with the fatal truth of her husband's diagnosis.

"Broken: a Sockumentary," easily one of the more creative offerings of the night, was a witty, yet melancholic exploration of heartbreak and all the ways it disrupts our lives.

The film consists of a series of interviews the filmmaker, Hannah Dougherty, conducts with her friends about recent breakups they've each suffered and methods they've used to cope with their resulting sadness.



The subjects are never interviewed in the flesh, instead appearing on screen as custom-made sock puppets, a creative choice by Dougherty that provides both a delightful visual aid for the audience and a profound vehicle for anonymous vulnerability for the people being interviewed.

The final two films ended the night on a much more optimistic note with the sweet and sensitive "Coby and Steven Are in Love," which follows a Las Vegas husband and wife lounge dancing duo as they reflect on their careers and relationship together, and "The Gender Line," a film about the life of Cidny Bullens, a transgender man who found great success in the seventies as a singer-songwriter before transitioning late in life and settling down to start a family.

The night wrapped up with an appearance from Bullen, who performed a song he wrote which shares its title with the documentary before taking a Q and A with the filmmaker of "Broken: a Sockumentary," Hannah Dougherty.

When asked about what inspired her to make "Broken," Dougherty said she wanted to make a film revolving around animation and at the same time, she saw she was in a moment in her life where her and all of her friends had just been through major breakups and that all of them were more or less experiencing the same thing.

"One of the great things about breakups is that we more or less all feel the same way about them and there's community in that and there's community in expressing that through film." Dougherty waited a beat before adding, "plus, who doesn't love sock puppets?"

The Big Sky Documentary Film Fest runs through Feb. 23 and features 149 films in four screening locations in Missoula. "Coby and Steven are in Love" and "Moment to Moment" will be showing for a second time Friday, Feb. 21 at the Wilma, 1 p.m.

UNION CLUB
Bar & Grill

Friday, February 21st
Joan Zen Band

Saturday, February 22nd
Josh Farmer Band

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HOMEGROWN OPEN MIC COMEDY!
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OPEN MIC MUSIC!
ON THE 3rd TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Post Animal Evolves into a New Beast

ALEX MILLER

michaelf.miller@umontana.edu

Pinpointing the exact genre of a band like Post Animal is kind of like asking a country musician to not sing about tractors. It can't be done. On their newest album, the band strives to make it known they will do anything they want to.

After the departure of founding member Joe Keery (YES FROM "STRANGER THINGS" GET OVER IT), the Chicago-based five-piece has dropped its sophomore effort "Forward Motion Godyssey." The 11-track album finds the band exploring new territory and burning a warpath on the way to defining its sound.

The album, which was recorded in Big Sky this past summer, shows the band truly flexing all of their musical muscle. Taking a cue from the album's title, each track is its own journey. Strung together, the whole thing is like an odyssey through each band member's musical mind.

That's one thing that makes this young band unique. Each member gets the chance to take on lead vocals and contribute their own lyrics, making for a true collaborative effort. A good example of the band's diversity can be found between the tracks "Safe or Not" and the self-titled "Post Animal."

The latter is a hard-hitting, big fat fuck you of a song. The deep, brutal tone and speed of the guitars would make any metalhead immediately begin to headbang. It's a thrash, prog epic with pop hooks. Bassist and vocalist Dalton Allison leads the charge, asking the listener, "are you, are you, animal?" during the chorus. Yes, yes we are.

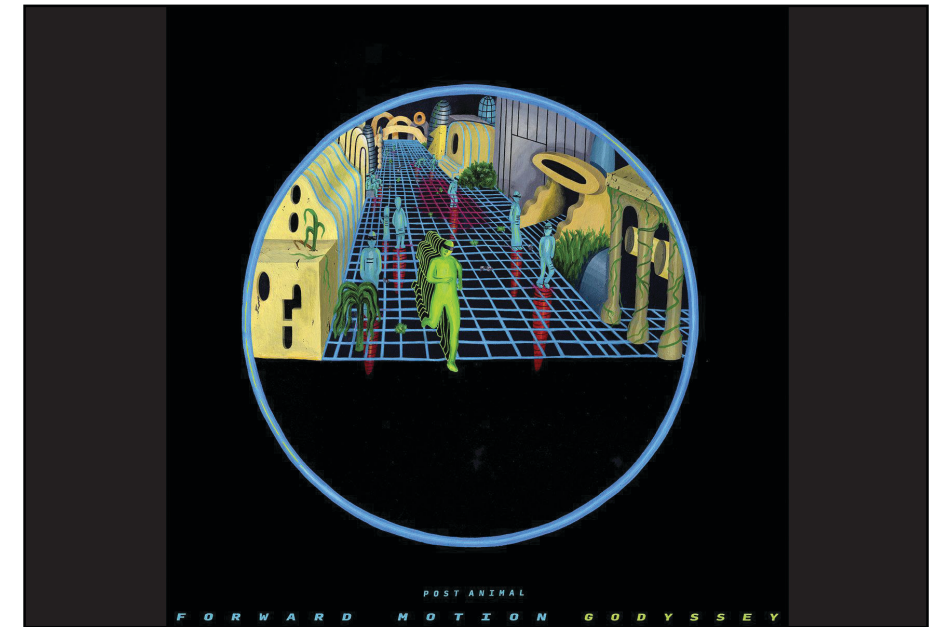
In contrast, "Safe or Not" is a funky dance hall jam, with harmonizing guitars doing a staccato two-step while Dalton's voice dreamily floats over the whole piece. Around the midway point of the song, the band breaks into a Latin rhythm inspired bridge that'll have even the stiffest of listeners dancing around the room.

The band also demonstrates a capability for tender moments, like in "How Do You Feel." The whole construction of the song is pure bliss, with a gentle guitar washed in reverb answering the drum's simple beat. Dalton croons on the chorus, asking "How do you feel?" The track also wins the sexiest guitar solo of the album, solidifying that guitarist Javi Reyes has attended the Josh Homme school for sexy guitar playing.

Not every song is a hit. "Private Shield" is more or less a bad cover of a Tame Impala song from the early 2010s. It still has some bright moments though. The guitars sound absolutely beautiful, and the stutter-step drum beat shows off drummer Wesley Toledo's prowess behind the kit.

Another issue with the album as a whole is the production. Some portions sound cramped with sound, and there are no real dynamics of space to be found. The guitar mixing is excellent, but it would be nice to have more texture in the layering of each instrument so the listener doesn't feel like each band member is standing in a single file line playing their part.

"Forward Motion Godyssey" is a damn fine album. The growth that all the members have undergone as musicians and people is evident on their latest offering. True to the title, the band looks to only be moving forward, creating their own musical odyssey.



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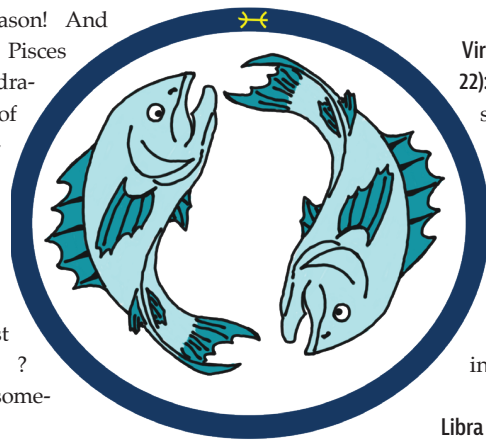
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Welcome to February Retrograde

We realize we talk about Mercury Retrograde a lot. We would apologize but we really are just trying to help you. So yeah, blah blah blah, retrograde is happening again, here's how to scrape by. This one is in Pisces season btw, so it's gonna be a doozy.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): Woohoo!

It's finally your season! And would it really be Pisces season without the drama and conflagration of another freaking retrograde? Do what you do best and respond to every DM in the most confusing way possible. May we suggest 🙄😏😁😂😭? That'll really throw someone off.



Leo (July 23 - August 22): You'd be lying if you said you never thought about auditioning for The Bachelor/Bachelorette to become an influencer and drop out of class. Plus, if you last long enough, you'll get to travel around the world! Maybe Chris Harrison will take you to Cleveland, too.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): OK, suffice to say your social life has been a little (a lot) chaotic lately.

You could either do the responsible thing and avoid any Friday night plans for the next few weeks or do the fun thing and lean into the chaos. Up to you.

Libra (September 23 - October 22): This is it. Now is the time. You're finally going to start flossing every night. Make it a routine. For realies this time. Fuck yeah.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): A few weeks ago, we mentioned someone has been trying to steal your seat in that gen-ed you hate. We hope you effectively scared them away, but if not, we want you to know we will follow you into battle.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Do the responsible thing and file your taxes. Then do the irresponsible thing and spend the tax return on sushi takeout, drugstore facemasks and one big lamp.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): You've always stood on the sidelines of any dance circle, and you're starting to feel a little left out. But don't worry, those late-night dance practice sessions are going to come in handy soon. You're gonna be a star.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Buy a new plant. Name him Greg. Find a nice way to ask your roommate to move out so you can use their room as your new greenhouse.

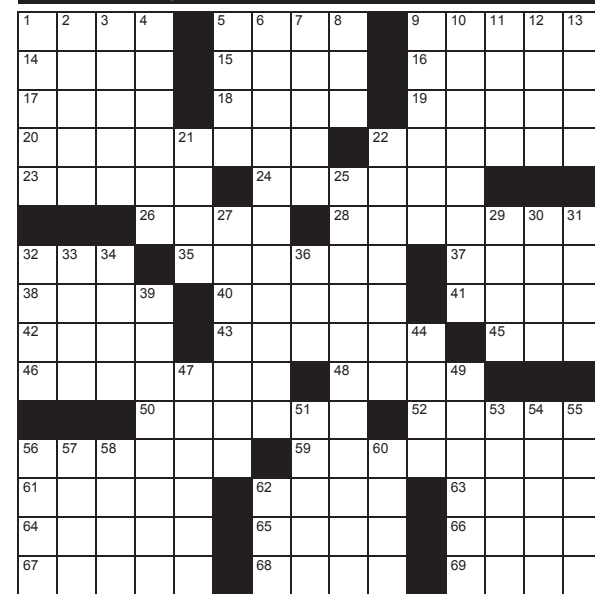
Aries (March 21 - April 19): We're sorry, but you can't keep telling yourself that you've earned this self-given work break. We love the energy of you switching off your notifications and taking hourly yoga breaks with Yerba Mate, but you've got to let someone know that you've dropped off the grid.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Go to sleep. It's a freaking school night and it is past your bedtime.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Despite everything, you can't seem to manage to become the morning person you've always dreamed you could be. We can't seem to understand why, but maybe — and this is just a wild guess — stop ordering Dominos at 11:45 p.m. and watching nature documentaries until 3:40 a.m.?

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): Oh shit, did your professor just say something about the midterm? You were too focused on the paranormal podcast playing through the one solitary air pod in your left ear. Dyatlov Pass was, like, definitely aliens though, right?

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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- ACROSS**
- 1 After all?
 - 5 Number for one
 - 9 Gives the axe to
 - 14 "That hurt!"
 - 15 Boisterous play
 - 16 Unaccompanied
 - 17 Something in the air
 - 18 Manage somehow
 - 19 Battle bravery
 - 20 Awfully dull
 - 22 Blackbeard, e.g.
 - 23 Take the wrong way?
 - 24 Ski race
 - 26 1996 presidential hopeful
 - 28 Starbucks staffer
 - 32 Be a pain
 - 35 Murphy Brown star
 - 37 Within reach
 - 38 Meadow sounds
 - 40 Plain as day
 - 41 Lysol target
 - 42 Capri or Wight
 - 43 Like most wedding cakes
 - 45 Ballet dance step
 - 46 Wood finish
 - 48 Side by side?
 - 50 Whitaker of Hollywood
 - 52 Moolah
 - 56 Plain awful
 - 59 Ornamental climbing vine
 - 61 Up and ____
 - 62 High school subj.
 - 63 Horse gait
 - 64 Boxer's quest
 - 65 Tolstoy heroine
 - 29 Escape slowly
 - 30 Fictional plantation
 - 31 Kind of race or dealer
 - 32 Egyptian bird
 - 33 Skin reaction
 - 34 Curly cabbage
 - 36 Word from the Beaver
 - 39 Colonists' quest, maybe
 - 44 Financial worry
 - 47 Linger aimlessly
 - 49 Queen of Soul
 - 51 Sty dwellers
 - 53 Slip-up
 - 54 Garlicky sauce
 - 55 No longer in
 - 56 Word before mail or crime
 - 57 Final words?
 - 58 Tim of "The Hateful Eight"
 - 60 Louver piece
 - 62 Cave dweller
- DOWN**
- 1 Pillages
 - 2 Check the books
 - 3 Something to settle
 - 4 Sewing kit item
 - 5 Chevron competitor
 - 6 Hotel amenity
 - 7 Urge onward
 - 8 Tarzan extra
 - 9 Jesus, for some
 - 10 Causing worry
 - 11 Bubbly drink
 - 12 Maritime speed
 - 13 Moistureless
 - 21 Messy one
 - 22 Window box, e.g.
 - 25 Anomalies
 - 27 Dance class attire

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Kendal Manuel Finds Stardom at Montana and Mozambique basketball

Griffen Smith
griffen.smith@umontana.edu

Griz basketball player Kendal Manuel was born in Billings, but moved around three other states and another country before he arrived at the University of Montana his junior year of college.

Now in his final year, Manuel has grown into a starting player for the Montana men's basketball team. He said he wants to help the Griz win three straight Big Sky Conference championships.

"Really, I decided to come back here because I wanted to win a championship," Manuel said. "If we keep sticking with it, we can go ahead and get another one."

Manuel broke out during his senior year at Montana. He has played and started at every game, averaging 15.3 points as of Feb. 15. Before playing for the Griz, Manuel also competed for Oregon State University and then the Mozambique national team in summer, 2018.

His history with Mozambique started before playing for the national team. When Manuel turned four, he moved to Mozambique with his father, Kody Hert. His father, a Mozambique citizen, got Manuel dual citizenship in Mozambique and the United States.

From age seven, Manuel traveled around the United States. He went to Maine, Florida and Louisiana before resettling in his hometown of Billings for middle school. He explained that he was all over the map growing up.

At Billings Skyview High School, Manuel gained recognition as an all-state basketball player his junior and senior year. He led Skyview to the 2015 AA basketball state title, the highest level in the state.

Manuel then signed with Oregon State but broke his leg in an October 2015 practice during his first semester of college. He recovered the next year and played with the Beavers, a Pac-12 school located in Corvallis, Oregon.

After two years at Oregon State, Manuel played 61 games and scored 323 points. But he lost his starting role on the team his sophomore year.

Manuel chose to move back to Montana and continue playing with the Griz,



University of Montana guard Kendal Manuel dribbles past an Eastern Washington University opponent, Thursday evening, Feb. 6, 2020. Manuel scored 18 points and had four rebounds and four assists during the game. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

who won the Big Sky Conference his sophomore year at Oregon State. But first, he was called up to play for Mozambique.

"They've been asking me since I was about 16 to play for the age group," Manuel said. "But this time it was the men's national team."

Manuel traveled to Dekal, Senegal to play with his country in the Federation international Basketball Association (FIBA).

Mozambique, located in southeast Africa, ranked 98th in the world going into the qualifying tournament. Out of the 16 competing teams, only five could qualify for the world cup event held in China in August of 2019.

"You're playing against some of the best players in the world and professional athletes, NBA guys, all that stuff," Manuel said. "Being able to experience that and being able to play at a high level and being out there was fun."

Mozambique basketball finished 2-4 for

its qualifying run, and Manuel played in the three summer games. Though he shined during those games, averaging 21.7 points per game, the team lost all three matches.

After his run in Mozambique, Manuel traveled back to the Northwestern United States to start what grew into a successful career as a Griz.

Travis Decuire, men's basketball head coach, said he was excited to see Manuel playing for the Griz.

"He's coachable and has been through a lot," Decuire said. "Guys who have been through adversity on the court tend to share a message very well, as he has done on and off the court."

Manuel developed into a dual-threat guard who can easily dunk over a player and shoot the three-ball. On Feb. 13, he reached over 1,000 career points, over

702 of which were scored at UM.

Manuel hopes to continue Montana's hold on the Big Sky Conference title.

"It feels good. Everybody's dream as a kid is to play in a March Madness Tournament," Manuel said.

The Griz rank first in the Big Sky Conference with a conference record of 12-3 through Feb. 15. With only five games left in conference play, Montana is inching closer to its third straight Big Sky Conference regular-season title.

Though Manuel has been successful in Missoula, he said his career at UM is a stepping stone.

"I don't have any specific places I want to go," Manuel said. "I just want to support my family and play professional basketball. I'm not too picky where I play, as long as I get that opportunity."

Breezie Customs, UM student and aspiring shoe designer

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

In the winter of 2019, UM student and Business Management Information Systems major Adam Botkin watched YouTube videos about artists who design custom basketball shoes. He decided he wanted to paint one of his over 20 pairs of shoes himself. He painted a green Nike swoosh that looked like dripping slime over a pair of white Air Force 1s. The result made him think he had potential in this craft.

"I've probably invested like \$500 into doing all of this, but I just recently broke even," Botkin said. "That was a really cool milestone for me."

Botkin graduated from Frenchtown High School in 2018, where he averaged 12.3 points and 9.8 rebounds per game for the Broncos basketball team. He initially signed a letter of intent to continue his basketball career at Rocky Mountain College in Billings.

After Botkin decided Rocky wasn't a good fit for him, he enrolled at The University of Montana. Lady Griz assistant coach Mike Petrino reached out to Botkin when he arrived to see if he would practice with the Lady Griz.

Botkin is now one of five students that practice with the Lady Griz to help add extra competition to the team. In his free time, he began painting his shoes so he wouldn't have to pay for expensive colorways, different color models, for shoe brands.

Once he found out that he excelled at painting the shoes, he made an Instagram account and began advertising for his business. Botkin once had "Breezie" in his XBOX gamer-tag, so he decided to go by Breezie Customs.

In order to make the custom sneakers, Botkin removes the laces and uses sandpaper or acetone to remove the shoes' factory finish. He then tapes the parts of the shoes that he doesn't want painted over and sprays the shoes with paint.

After adding a finish to the shoe, Botkin lets them dry for a few days before selling them. He uses a variety of blended paints and stencils to make the custom designs that customers request.

"He direct messaged me on Instagram to ask me if I wanted him to make me a pair," said Griz forward Mack Anderson.

Anderson was the first athlete to wear a pair of Botkin's shoes in a game, wearing a red and black pair of Nike sneakers with Griz logos painted on the sides. Anderson scored 10 points against Eastern Washington Feb. 6 in his Breezie Customs.

At UM's next game against Idaho on Feb. 8, Anderson scored a career-high 15 points while he touted the custom sneakers.

Since Anderson wore the custom sneakers and made an Instagram post about them, Botkins said he has received more requests from UM basketball players to make the custom shoes.

"Doing more customs for athletes and people of high social status, I guess, brings in the crowd," Botkin said.

Anderson's teammate, Eddy Egun, debuted a pair of Botkin's sneakers while the Griz played against Weber State on Feb. 13.

"I had to break them in during shootaround, but they felt pretty good," said Egun.

Egun scored seven points in the eight minutes that he played and didn't miss a shot against Weber State. The redshirt freshman guard hopes to get more shoes from Botkin in the future.



University of Montana sophomore forward Mack Anderson wears Nike basketball shoes embossed with the Montana Griz symbol. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

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How a former UM basketball player's success continues off the court

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

After UM's basketball team pummeled Weber State 72-37 Feb. 14, former Griz forward Bobby Moorehead sat courtside in Dahlberg Arena wearing a suit waiting for some former teammates to return from the locker room. When senior guard Kendal Manuel appeared from the tunnel, Moorehead quickly jumped up to greet him.

"Some of those moves you did, like that stop-and-then-go, are NBA moves. Those are nice," Moorehead told Manuel. "And that dunk, that was pretty too."

"That was for you," Manuel said. Early in the basketball season, ABC FOX Montana sports director Shaun Rainey approached Moorehead about being the color commentator for some of the UM men's basketball games. Moorehead accepted the offer and has called multiple games alongside Rainey since.

"He's grown into his own," Rainey said. "It's been a lot of fun. He's getting better and better just as I'm getting better and better."

Moorehead said he doesn't like hearing his voice in videos, so it was initially hard to stand in front of the camera in SWX's pregame show. But many of the players on the UM team, like Manuel, played with or against Moorehead, so he has no trouble knowing who's who on the court.

"I know this Griz team pretty well, and I know the coaches really well," Moorehead said.

Before his commentating career began, Moorehead was a standout basketball player for Stadium High School in Tacoma, Washington. He initially played baseball in middle school, but when travel baseball got too expensive, his parent's urged him to play basketball.

During his freshman year of high school, he played on the C team. By his sophomore year, he was starting for the Tigers. During his last year of playing high school basketball, he averaged 26.5 points and 11 rebounds a game and was named the 4A Narrows league MVP.



Former University of Montana basketball player Bobby Moorehead sportscasts on the sidelines for the game against Eastern Washington University, Thursday Feb. 6, 2020. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

After dominating basketball in high school, college offers, including one from UM, came rolling in. "When I first was getting recruited here, Montana sounded like a foreign country. It sounded like a scary place," he said. "But there was a good basketball program and winning was important to me."

When he first arrived on campus, Moorehead was expecting to score big for UM like he did in high school. But his perspective quickly changed. He only averaged 5.6 points per game during his freshman year and 3.9 points his sophomore year. So he began focusing on defense.

During his junior and senior years of college, Moorehead received the John Ea-

heart Memorial award, which is given to the team's most outstanding defensive player. He also helped UM win the Big Sky Tournament and reach the first round of the NCAA tournament.

Moorehead graduated from UM in 2019 with a degree in business management. He got married that summer and began working at a local coffee shop in Missoula.

Moorehead now broadcasts UM games and helps out the Hellgate High School basketball team as an assistant coach. Hellgate is currently undefeated and is the number one ranked AA school in the state.

Moorehead is active in his church and also has plans to open a coffee roastery in Missoula or in his home state of Washing-

ton. "The way it's grown and the way it's roasted is such a cool process to me, and so fulfilling," said Moorehead about the caffeinated bean.

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony brings 90's rap to Missoula

DANIEL DUENSING

daniel.duensing@umontana.edu

Iconic 1990s rap group Bone Thugs-N-Harmony brought an energetic Valentine's Day performance to The Wilma, Feb. 14. Basked in interchanging lights, the crowd shouted chants with Bone Thug members and moved in waves during the show.

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony's show in Missoula is the first of its kind. Logjam Presents has never hosted a group with ties to '90s rappers like Tupac Shakur, and Eric "Eazy-E" Wright. With its 1991 inception in Cleveland, Ohio, Bone Thugs signed a recording deal with Los Angeles-based Ruthless Records in 1993. From there, the group went on to tour multiple venues and win a Grammy for their song "The Crossroads" in 1997.

Local Montana hip hop group Foreshadow x Elair opened for Bone Thugs with a crowd-engaging performance. Fresh off their album release party for "48 Minutes," held at the Top Hat in May 2019, the duo performed under flashing purple and red LED lights.

About an hour later, Bone Thugs-N-Harmony vocalist DJ Position took the stage. The rapper performed solo, first live-streaming the crowd on his phone and then encouraging the crowd to echo his lyrics with middle fingers raised in the air.

Shortly after, Bone Thug members Krayzie Bone, Layzie Bone, and Flesh-N-Bone took the stage. The group wished the audience a happy Valentine's Day and performed songs like "Thuggish Ruggish Bone" and "Resurrection."

Bone Thugs-N-Harmony continued their 2020 tour in Park City, Utah, Saturday evening, Feb. 15, 2020.



TOP: Flesh-n-Bone engages the audience with a up-and-down hand motion during the performance of the song "Thuggish Ruggish Bone." **BOTTOM LEFT:** Bone Thugs-N-Harmony vocalists Layzie Bone, right, and Flesh-n-Bone, left, perform at The Wilma in Missoula, Montana, Friday evening, Feb. 14, 2020. The Valentine's Day performance marked Bones Thug's last stop in Montana for their 2020 tour. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** An audience member holds a Bone Thugs-N-Harmony hat prior to the groups performance. The emblem on the hat has been a signature of BoneThugs since the groups inception in 1991.