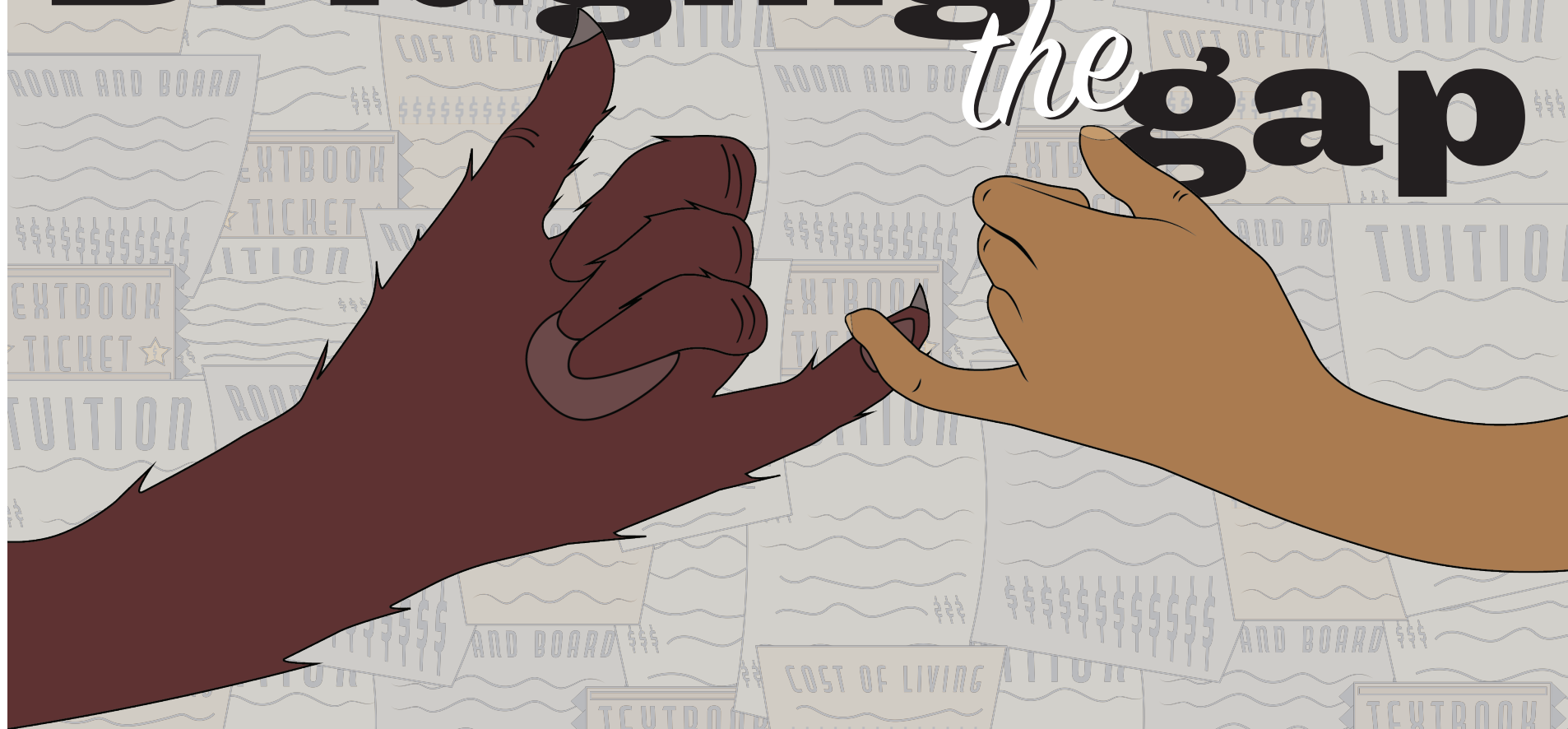


MONTANA KADIMIN

Bridging *the* gap



**The University of Montana makes
a big promise to cover low
income students' tuition**

Story by Chloe Olsgaard



7 Hunters & legislators

13 You're a wizard, Puff?

14 New Griz shines

Cover Design by McKenna Johnson

January 19, 2023 | Volume 125 | Issue No. 15



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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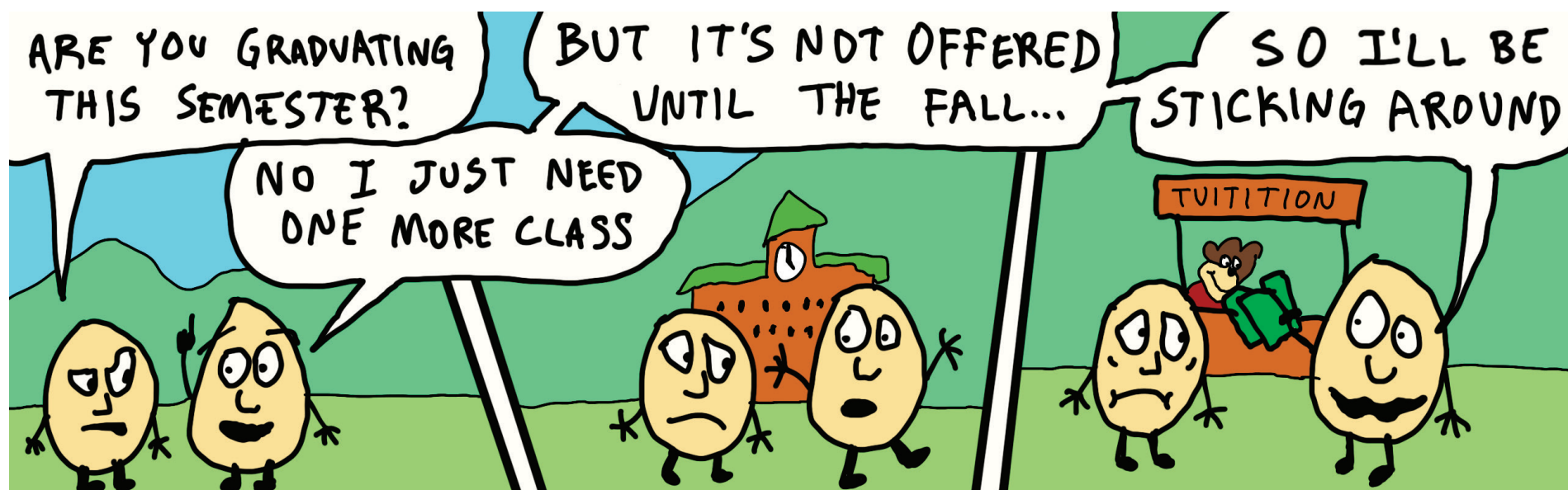
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THE GARAGE: SE 3 EP 15



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

TikTok ban is just picking from long list of data collectors

The governor’s order to ban TikTok on Montana campuses has a sense of paranoia. If the state is so afraid of students and staff getting spied on, then maybe it should look at other apps that students use that are tracking our data.

One study by CNBC that came out in 2022 found that YouTube also collects vast amounts of data from people who use the platform. That app and TikTok topped the list, but still, it concluded user data was tracked for every social media app students use — Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Snapchat all track your usage to give you info that’s more relevant to you.

The big difference between all these apps and TikTok is that the other apps use peoples’ data for personal purposes, while TikTok sells it to third parties. There’s also the concern that the country of China is receiving all of TikTok’s data.

But either way, your information is out there and accessible the second you sign up for any

social media app. That’s why we all check the boxes on privacy policies before we’re allowed to get to using social media platforms. We all have the opportunity to know what we’re signing up for. What’s more concerning than TikTok is the trend toward censorship that Gov. Greg Gianforte’s ban sets.

Essentially, Gianforte issued a recommendation and the Board of Regents and Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education stepped in line. We get it that TikTok might be dangerous, but it’s not like banning it on campus Wi-Fi is going to stop students from using it. They’ll just do it with data.

But Gianforte, BOR and OCHE banding together to ban students from using an app once makes it that much easier should they decide to do it again. The BOR has control over what’s happening on UM’s campus, but the state’s Legislature this year has multiple bills that are threatening to change that.

With that in mind, it’s especially disheart-

ening to see the app go without a fight for students’ voices.

Not to mention, banning TikTok may actually have a negative impact on UM. The main UM TikTok could be used as a valuable recruiting tool. Now that it is banned, schools in different states have a recruiting advantage over UM.

Other schools do maintain active accounts that garner big engagements. Weber State, a school in the Big Sky Conference, for instance, has more than 4,000 followers on TikTok. The Big Sky Conference that the University is part of has an account too, with more than 6,500 followers.

Montana especially could stand to use the account as a recruiting tool. Our campus is beautiful, and travel TikTok regularly garners huge views showing images and videos of nearby Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

We should be using Montana’s beauty as a draw for students to come to our school.

On a smaller level, TikTok was also a good way for student groups to connect with the student body and spread important information around campus.

Student TikToks at UM have allowed students to share their opinions on huge events. It was TikTok that brought attention to professor Clayton Looney’s racist comments last year.

TikTok has also been a platform that’s given students the chance to comment on events from Rob Smith, the UM computer science professor who resigned after his sexist blog was uncovered by the Kaimin, to sporting events like the Griz-Cat games.

It’s a really unique way to connect. That’s why students use it. And a ban verging on censorship won’t stop that use — it will just make it less accessible, particularly for low-income students who don’t have unlimited data and won’t be able to use it on their Wi-Fi thanks to this decision.

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.

Email us your opinions at griffen.smith@umontana.edu



Doggone good kids

Monica Cederberg pushes baby Ryan in a stroller on a foggy morning on Jan. 15. Ruby the dog leads the way out front as they make their way around UM. With winter break drawing to a close, life begins to swell up around campus as students return for spring semester. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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Wednesday 10:00 - 3:00

Saturday 11:00 - 3:00

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UM names finalists in second law dean search, student sues MSU on free speech, UM suffers inflated construction costs

EMILY TSCHETTER

emilytschetter@umontana.edu

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA NAMES FOUR FINALISTS IN LAW SCHOOL DEAN SEARCH

The University of Montana named three current employees and one external candidate as finalists for dean of the law school, which has been an open position since fall 2021.

The finalists are Lucy France, UM's legal counsel since 2013; interim law dean Elaine Gagliardi; immigration lawyer and adjunct professor at UM Kari Hong; and former head of Golden Gate University's law school Eric Christiansen.

UM performed a nationwide dean search that progressed to the finalist stage last academic year but failed to hire a new dean.

Former dean Paul Kirgis and associate dean Sally Weaver stepped down in fall 2021 after allegations arose that they discouraged students from reporting instances of sexual misconduct to UM's Title IX office.

The provost's office will host open forums with each candidate from 12-1 p.m. in room 101 in the law school building. Hong's took place on Jan. 17; Christiansen's will be on Jan. 25; Gagliardi's on Jan. 30; and France's on Feb. 1. The public can also attend the forums on Zoom. Links can be found on the provost's website.

STUDENT SUES MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY, COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR FREE SPEECH VIOLATION

A Montana State University student alleges MSU officials violated her student free speech rights.

Daria Danley, the student and plaintiff, included MSU President Waded Cruzado and director of MSU's Office of Institutional Equity in the suit. Danley alleges MSU officials violated her rights by punishing her for objecting to pronoun use in her sorority and for bringing forward concerns about an LGBTQ member of her sorority stalking and sexually harassing her, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit said MSU punished Danley for "hate speech" and charged her with "discrimination." The complaint alleged the University imposed a no-contact order against her so she could not be in the same room as her alleged harasser. The complaint said her sorority evicted her

per an MSU suggestion.

The lawsuit cited a similar free speech violation case in 2017 that led to MSU paying a \$120,000 settlement, which involved student Erik Powell's suspension after criticizing a transgender student in front of a professor in a private meeting, according to Daily Montanan reporting. The same lawyer that represented Powell, Bozeman lawyer Matthew Monforton, is representing Danley.

UM INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE COSTS INCREASE BY 22% SINCE 2019

Construction costs, fueled by supply chain issues and rising inflation, have increased by 22% at UM since 2019 and stalled various campus infrastructure updates.

The Board of Regents has approved more than 20 UM projects in that time. The University has already finished remodeling Pantzer Hall, Eck Hall and the music building. The remaining projects have seen costs rise significantly above their initial budgets.

The new dining hall that involved partial demolitions of the Lommasson Center and Craig Hall has had the biggest increase of \$20 million over its initial \$27 million budget, according to reporting by the Missoulian. The University now plans to reuse kitchen equipment from the Food Zoo to cut some costs, which has saved over \$1 million.

The Knowles Hall remodel doubled its budget to \$12 million in spring 2022. The privately funded Montana Museum of Art and Culture increased by \$8 million

to over \$14 million. Close to \$160 million for most other projects has been collected through bonds and debt refinancing.

The University's second phase of construction projects is slated to include a new forestry building and a new residence hall. UM is also pushing for a renovation to the Clapp Building in this legislative session to remove asbestos, make the building ADA accessible and address electric and plumbing issues.

CARAS PARK RIVER PROJECT ADDS FUNDS, HEADS TO DESIGN STAGE

The Missoula City Council added \$131,000 from the Downtown Missoula Partnership to the Clark Fork River access project to fund additional design work.

The city received a \$1.2 million U.S. Department of Commerce grant to improve river access, add viewing spots and reduce erosion last year. Phase one already included amphitheater renovations, widening the walking trail and power upgrades, among other improvements.

Missoula Parks and Recreation found about 15,000 people floated the river under the Madison Street Bridge in 2015, which has led to an increase in carved-out trails and riverbank erosion, according to KPAX reporting. The project aims to reduce the erosion by planting vegetation to improve water quality and reduce water temperature.

The Caras Park project still plans to add an accessible ramp down to the river, along with expanding terraced seating on the river viewing platform by Brennan's Wave.

POLICE BLOTTER

EMILY TSCHETTER

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While students checked out for break and were busy drinking eggnog and getting stranded in airports, crime slowed but never stopped in Zootown. From Dec. 17 to Jan. 11, the University of Montana Police Department responded to 18 crimes. Crime never rests for the holidays, especially when it comes to thefts.

THURSDAY 12/22 – INTERCEPTED INTERNET

Thefts from cars happen constantly on campus, but few people are struck by thieves where it hurts most: their internet access. A Craighead Apartments renter returned to their old stomping grounds after months away to pick up some belongings. Their boxes stayed intact for the move into a new home, but they called UMPD at about 4 p.m. when they couldn't find their personal modem. The former resident said multiple people had access to the apartment since they moved out in December, and that was the only item missing. High-speed web surfing continues to elude them, and the suspect remains unknown.

MONDAY 12/26 – CONFECTION CAPER?

A Lewis and Clark resident called 911 when they believed a stranger was in their roommate's room, who was in Japan for winter break. The resident told UMPD when they arrived that it looked like someone was sleeping in their roommate's bed, and a pastry inexplicably disappeared from a box on the kitchen counter. Officers searched the apartment, lifted the sheets off the bed and simply found a pile of blankets. The suspect and the missing sweet treat were never located, the latter likely already digested by the time police arrived.

SUNDAY 1/1 – SPARKING CHAOS

UMPD responded to two firework incidents over the break. Officers issued a warning to a small group of people for adding to the New Year's festivities shortly after midnight in parking lot U. Then, someone called in a belated celebration for noise disturbance, which took place around 9 p.m. in the ASUM gardens. When officers arrived at the South Avenue spot, the pyrotechnic(s)-in-training had already fled the scene. At least UM's ducks have a new home and weren't traumatized by the flying sparks.

TUESDAY 1/3 – RUBBER STABBING

A UM-hired contractor called UMPD when they made a troubling discovery on their car. After pulling out of parking lot G to leave work for the day, she made it a short distance down the road before her flat tire light came on. When she stepped out, she found a knife blade lodged in her tire. Yikes. The responding officer said she likely ran the knife over because it was in the center of the tire and not the side wall. UMPD never tracked down the knife's origin.

Can't get enough? Start listening.

Look out for this semester's first episode of **THE KAIMIN CAST** next Monday, January 23, where audio editor Alyssa Tompkins looks into the ethics of traveling over break.

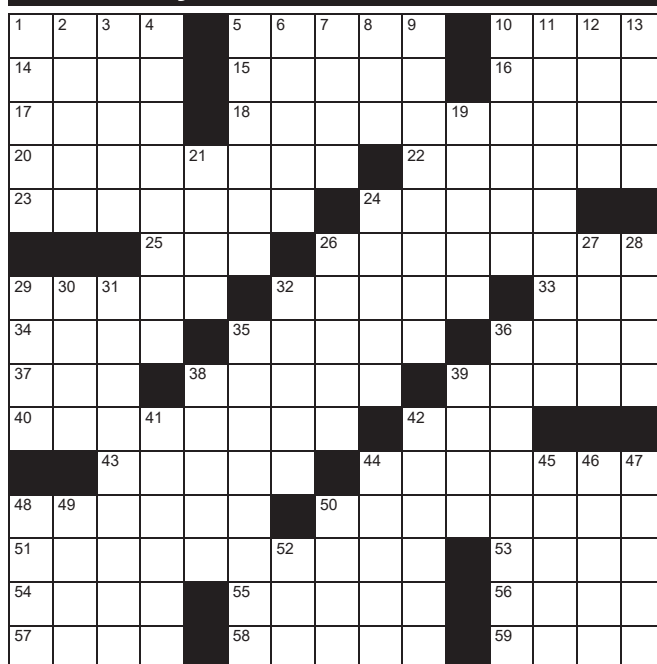
THE KAIMIN CAST



New episodes out Monday. Scan for the latest.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



ACROSS

- 1 Markdown event
- 5 Part of a Flintstone's yell
- 10 Kicker's target
- 14 Reunion bunch
- 15 Text alternative
- 16 Beer buy
- 17 4:1, e.g.
- 18 Monaco casino locale
- 20 New Orleans hoopsters
- 22 Set, as concrete
- 23 Soon, in poetry
- 24 Reef material
- 25 Make sense, with "up"
- 26 Symbol of happiness
- 29 Neighbor of Fiji
- 32 Twelve dozen
- 33 Hide-hair connector
- 34 Wind instrument
- 35 Desist's partner
- 36 Elevated ground
- 37 Man of the cloth, slangily
- 38 Get-up-and-go
- 39 Bit of hardware
- 40 Microscope part
- 42 Luggage attachment
- 43 Numbers game
- 44 Hotel room amenity
- 48 Inner-city neighborhood
- 50 Alabama state flower
- 51 Coast-to-coast
- 53 Hold up
- 54 Certain sax
- 55 Birth-related

DOWN

- 1 Check (out)
- 2 Cabinet wood
- 3 Gravy server
- 4 Preserved fodder
- 5 Price factor
- 6 Honor _____ thieves
- 7 Prohibits by law
- 8 Drill insert
- 9 Place for a pint
- 10 Egyptian emblem
- 11 Inflexible one
- 12 Emerald _____
- 13 Vegas light
- 19 "Who _____?"
- 21 Last part, in music
- 24 Glenn of "101 Dalmatians"
- 26 Atlanta athlete
- 27 Kennedy matriarch
- 28 Shootout shout
- 29 Pulled apart
- 30 Listen to
- 31 Short work of fiction
- 32 State Farm rival
- 35 Drapery fabric
- 36 Kelly of "The Accused"
- 38 "Same here"
- 39 Playing with a full deck
- 41 Magical brew
- 42 Not late
- 44 Address for a lady
- 45 Ice skate part
- 46 Wedding walkway
- 47 Taxi posting
- 48 Pesky insect
- 49 TV skipper Alan
- 50 Quote, as a source
- 52 Blanched

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Horoscope

New Me-o-scope

ANNA HENNING

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MACKENNA GLEAVE | MONTANA KAIMIN

There's no nice way to put this: New Year's resolutions are a terrible idea. The idea of "new year, new me" is romanticized, and forgets that time is relative and meaningless. Maybe you've tried to jump on this bus to nowhere and write your own resolutions. Now is the time where people start bailing on change and regressing to the same shitty habits they had before. Looking for an alternative that will bring you something new in 2023? Not to fear, the stars have come to your rescue.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

You write lists religiously, to the point where you have a list of all the different lists you have. You need to have all of them in one place, so start a bullet journal. Slap some stickers on a notebook, splurge on expensive gel pens that will stop working in three weeks and write in the prettiest fonts you can find from Google. Enjoy basking in feeling like your life is more organized than everyone else's.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):

It's time to face your biggest fear: commitment. You like being free-spirited, but it's time to spend some time working through those daddy issues. Get emotionally involved with other people. You don't have to commit to a romance, try being consistent with friends first. Drop your expectations and be present in spending time with others.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

Your creativity may be a strength, but coping skills are your weakness. You avoid cleaning because it overwhelms you, but it can help if you give it a try. Your pile of week-old dishes and roommates will thank you. Soon you will find the stress being wiped away like your crusty floors.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

To commemorate your first mental breakdown of 2023, you should dye your hair a new color. In fact, change it every few weeks when you feel sad again. Don't worry if your hair gets too damaged, you can always shave your head. Just please, don't cut your own bangs. Your hair color is enough change for one mental breakdown session.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

My dear Taurus, the stars say this because they care: go the fuck outside. You should be enjoying long walks on the beach... just kidding, it's Missoula. But seriously, go touch some grass. Take a break from reading your Twilight fanfiction and spend some time in the sunlight. No, you won't sparkle, but you desperately need to break up that routine.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):

You should work on being independent by doing some solo travel. You could use a little alone time since you're always around others. However, you will probably panic about being alone and invite tons of people on your road

trip. Enjoy an adventure away from Missoula, and maybe find some answers to that mid-college crisis you ignore.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):

Last year, you neglected yourself to take care of others. This year, you should process some of your own emotions before they start boiling over into angry outbursts. Take up meditation. Explore questions like, "What do I do after college?" and "what should I make for dinner?" While you're at it, manifest some student debt forgiveness. We could all use a little help.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

Say "fuck it" to therapy, it's too expensive. Instead, spend way more money with retail therapy! Try to shop in stores instead of online, so at least you're getting out of the house. Buying stuff to make you happy is great, as long as you aren't getting any regrettable tattoos or couches off of Facebook Marketplace that don't actually fit in your apartment.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):

Reconnect with your inner child and get a coloring book. They're great for plane rides, classes on Zoom and general procrastination. There's tons of options, from a fine-line cottagecore frog book to a Peppa Pig book to fuel your nightmares. You need something to feed your creative side and feel a sense of accomplishment. It's also a reminder that not everything in life will be perfect.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):

You've been avoiding confrontation for far too long. This year, you will find the courage to quit the job that doesn't pay or treat you well. You will then proceed to go into a complete mental spiral of regret-spaghetti. Be gentle with yourself. Keep reminding yourself that you're getting a college degree so you can (hopefully) be able to quit the next shitty job.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

You love New Year's resolutions. You can't help that you love goal setting and new beginnings. To avoid the same soul-crushing disappointment we all feel, try 30-day challenges instead. It will give you something different to push for every month, and you can make it your entire personality while you do.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):

You should work on being less reckless. You should get a pet to force you to have consistency in your life. Sure, you might end up with a hamster who can summon demons or a pug with mysterious medical issues, but you will love them more than life. For those who can't afford an animal, plants are always an acceptable alternative.

UDASH brings back Gold line, alters Purple and Green lines

ANDY TALLMAN

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The UDASH Gold line, which offers a late-night downtown and Lewis and Clark apartments service, is back on for Friday nights after being canceled because of COVID-19.

The Gold line will begin immediately after the Red line ends at Lewis and Clark at 10:16 p.m. The Gold line will end at 2:18 a.m. at the same location.

Vickie Rectenwald, ASUM's transportation director, said UDASH had received feedback from students who wanted the Gold line back.

"We knew that the demand was there," Rectenwald said.

The Green and Purple lines have also been expanded. The Purple line's hours were shortened last semester due to a shortage of drivers, but now that the drivers who were in training last semester are

officially on staff, it's back on all-day service. The Purple line's altered route serves Fifth and Sixth Streets, Wyoming Street and Cregg Lane, a change made after analyzing popular student addresses.

"We really wanted to be able to serve the Sawyer student living," Rectenwald said.

The Green line's new route serves Missoula College and downtown Missoula, with a stop close to ROAM Student Living to offer its residents another way to get to campus.

Though aggressive recruiting last fall has allowed UDASH to increase its service, it is still seeking drivers. Rectenwald stated that if the Gold line's return becomes popular among students, UM transportation might seek to expand it if they can find more drivers.

But, because any new recruits take time to train before they can be added to the staff, there are unlikely to be any changes to the UDASH schedule this semester.



A UDASH bus drives away on Sept. 23 from the charging stations. UDASH has been able to train more drivers since last semester to bring the Gold line back for the first time since COVID-19 shut down UM in spring 2020. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

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by MATT COX



ASUM resolution, bill from state legislature aim to expand hunting access for students

MARIAH THOMAS

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Before he even went through hunters' safety classes, Garret Weichel's family would take him out with them during hunting season in the area around his home of Lewistown, Montana.

"I'd always go out with my old man and his old man," Weichel said. "It's been in our family for quite some time and we'd do one big trip to start hunting season off and then if nothing came out of that, we'd just go out on weekends or after school, whenever we could find time."

His favorite tag to put in for each year is an Elk B tag, which allows a hunter to take an antlerless elk, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Tags are special licenses issued by FWP that allow someone to hunt a specific animal at a specific time of year.

Some years, Weichel will apply for a bear tag, and every year since he could hunt, he's entered in for a moose tag, but he said that one's been elusive.

His love for hunting in Montana is why Weichel, a 23-year-old senior studying wildlife biology at the University of Montana, helped the Associated Students of the University of Montana write a resolution to give students excused absences for hunting in the fall.

It's also why he's supported two pieces of legislation coming out of the state legislature — one in 2021, and one that's currently making its way through the legislative process.

Weichel's co-authored ASUM resolution requested the University to offer up to three excused absences to students with proof of hunting tags or tribal IDs — which allow people to hunt on tribal land — during the fall semester.

"This last hunting season, I ended up going home and I had to miss a day of school," Weichel said. "It was an unexcused absence which was unfortunate, but my dad drew a bull tag and he needed help getting a bull out of the mountains."

He added that some of the tags are rare to get, so if a student got one, they would need to miss school because it could be their only chance to use it.

"This is something we've done in our high school for the longest time," Weichel

said. "Come hunting season, opening weekend, you're not really expected to be in class. It's almost like a pseudo-holiday."

The resolution passed at the senate's Dec. 7 meeting, where Weichel presented public comment. Senators Maggie Bell, O'Shay Birdinground, Kendal Burcham, Halston Witt, ASUM's business manager Joselyn Jolly and president Elizabeth Bowles are also credited as resolution authors.

According to Bowles, the resolution is currently being brought to UM administrators and other University figures who may help implement it as an official University policy. UM spokesperson Dave Kuntz said the provost's office would make this change, but he is not aware of detailed discussions taking place to implement the policy. However, Kuntz said students can work with individual professors to schedule absences from their classes in advance.

The resolution explicitly makes reference to House Bill 647, which passed in Montana's Legislature with a vote of 71-25 in the House, and 33-17 in the Senate in 2021.

That bill allowed full-time out-of-state students at Montana universities to purchase their hunting and fishing licenses at resident prices, so long as their home state offers resident rates to Montanans who are college students there and there's no drawing required for Montana residents. With a drawing, some hunters may not get a license. Before that bill was implemented, out-of-state students had to buy a non-resident license, which costs more.

HB 647 also lets full-time out-of-state students whose states don't offer resident rates to Montana students to get certain licenses for half price.

And this year, House Bill 133 is aiming to further help non-resident students access hunting in Montana by letting students apply for tags online. Currently, those out-of-state students' applications must be submitted at the FWP office in Helena. Other licenses can be purchased on FWP's website.

"To physically be present at that location is kind of time consuming and you have to bring the right paperwork with you and I think sometimes it's kind of a hassle," said Ethan Hanley, ASUM's lobbyist at the state legislature.

The bill's sponsor, Republican Rep. Russel Miner from Cascade County, said at a hearing on Jan. 5 that FWP requested

the bill to see the legislature.

Hanley said the bill is a simple fix that will provide better access for students. He said the bill felt important to lobby in favor of because a number of students advocated for HB 647 in 2021, and HB 133 will expand upon that access.

For Weichel, he sees these bills as important steps to allow students to get outside, experience Montana and provide food for themselves. He also said the purchase of the tags gives money back to the state and conservation. When hunters purchase a tag, they pay a fee for state conservation efforts.

Weichel added that he thinks expanding hunting access for out-of-state and in-state students could even boost enrollment.

"I have buddies who one of the main reasons they picked Montana was because of the hunting," Weichel said.

For him, the bills and the ASUM resolution will offer a good opportunity for students to learn about accessing public and private land.

He suggested students who want to go out hunting for the first time should get in contact with UM's Backcountry Hunters and Anglers club, and added that he's always happy to show people the ropes and help them practice good hunting etiquette.

HB 133 passed its second hearing in the house by a vote of 98-1 on Jan. 16. It will be scheduled for a third hearing in the house before being sent to the senate.

To give public comment to ASUM, you can visit its website: www.umd.edu/asum/senateinfo/default.php. To give public comment at the legislature, you can upload written testimony or testify remotely here: leg.mt.gov/public-testimony/.

If you are interested in getting in touch with UM's Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Club, you can visit the group's page on GrizHub: grizhub.umd.edu/organization/backcountryhuntersandanglers.



MCKENNA JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

ANTY 220S: Culture and Society



MWF 8:00–8:50 A.M. * in SS 356
ANTY Major and Minor Core Course
Fulfills General Education Social Sciences and Culture Diversity

*also online section

Bridging

In a time of skyrocketing costs of living, every penny counts for college

Story by Chloe Olsgaard ~ Photos by Lukas Prinos ~ Graphs by McKenna Johnson

RUNYON Matthews dreamed of going to college and becoming a teacher ever since he was little. At 19 years old, he's majoring in English education and has become the first person on his dad's side of the family to attend college.

Matthews' parents assured him that they would do whatever they had to do to make sure that a college education would be attainable for him. His father, who had an early retirement, was ecstatic to hear that Matthews had around 75% of his tuition covered by scholarships.

He said that because his family's income is lower than \$50,000, extended family and friends were "very happy" to help him out with college funds.

Matthews not attending college was never an option for his family in Kalispell. He said his parents made sure to keep his head filled with the promise of career plans.

"I've always had the desire to go to college to be a teacher, because that's my career," Matthews said. "I'm certain of it."

His mother, who currently works at a hotel in Kalispell, attended college, but left after a few semesters. He said she felt like college wasn't a fit for her.

"My family was super thrilled that I decided to go the college route, especially my dad's side," Matthews said. "They just had it in my head since I was in first grade, that when I was out of high school, I was going to college."

He received in-state tuition, several high school music scholarships, a high school



Runyon Matthews stands in front of University Hall on Jan. 15. Matthews is a 19-year-old student at UM who qualifies for every requirement of the "Grizzly Promise" scholarship package other than being an incoming student.

GPA scholarship and a first-generation student scholarship.

For Matthews' and other lower-income families from Montana, going to college might not take the village of support that it used to. That's partially because of the University of Montana's newly unveiled Grizzly Promise, a scholarship to cover the cost for

some in-state students.

It's the newest addition in a long process the University began to keep young Montanans on the path to college. The need-based aid package would help cover most, if not all, mandatory fees and tuition for incoming Montana freshmen with family-incomes lower than \$50,000. A student's socioeco-

nomic status and family incomes decide the level of support needed, and every aid package won't look the same. Matthews fills every requirement except for being an incoming student. He knows how important help like that is.

"What the Grizzly Promise Initiative provides is that every student in Montana who

n g the g a p

meets these thresholds has the opportunity to get the financial support needed to continue their education,” UM spokesperson Dave Kuntz said.

The need to support lower income college students has skyrocketed as inflation has boosted the cost of living for most Americans. At UM, there has been a multi-year drop of first generation college students and Pell Grant recipients – the federal need-based award for students.

The University’s current population of students is 10,000. Of those, 1,960 of them were Pell Grant eligible, and 2,700 were first generation this year. In 2017, 3,339 were Pell Grant eligible and 3,787 were first generation.

There has also been a longstanding decline in Montana students, even when the University boosted its enrollment by 2.3% in 2021. In fall of 2022 just 6,144 in-state students call campus home, compared to 8,368 in 2017.

“If we can show the students the level of a package that they can get on the front end, it might make that decision for them to attend the University of Montana easier,” Kuntz said.

GROWING CONCERNS

Montana households’ median income hovers around \$60,000, which ranks 40th among the U.S. states in 2021, according to the U.S Census Bureau. And within Missoula County, the median gross monthly rent for 2017-2020 was \$972. The median gross rent for all of Montana was \$886 per month. Paired with the highest inflation rates in the last 40 years, many students have to stretch more with less.

Sophomore Erin Heaton said after their freshman year, they were in a time crunch to find housing that was both affordable

and available. Waitlists for off-campus UM housing were filled before the semester had ended, leaving Heaton to land in Sawyer Student Living.

The rent for Heaton’s four-bedroom apartment, \$825, is the cheapest option available to Sawyer residents. Even with a tuition waiver, the cost to live in Missoula is getting difficult, Heaton said.

“\$800 for college students a month is a ridiculous amount of money, especially because the apartments are really small,” Heaton said. “It just feels like there’s a lot of hidden charges that we don’t really know about.”

Heaton accepted student loans, and they favored the idea of getting rid of the interest on them or getting rid of loans entirely.

An interest-free pause was placed on student loan payments in March 2020 to combat economic challenges caused by the pandemic. The pause, which has been extended nine times under two administrations, was prolonged after the Biden-Harris Administration announced its Student Loan Debt Relief Plan on Aug. 25.

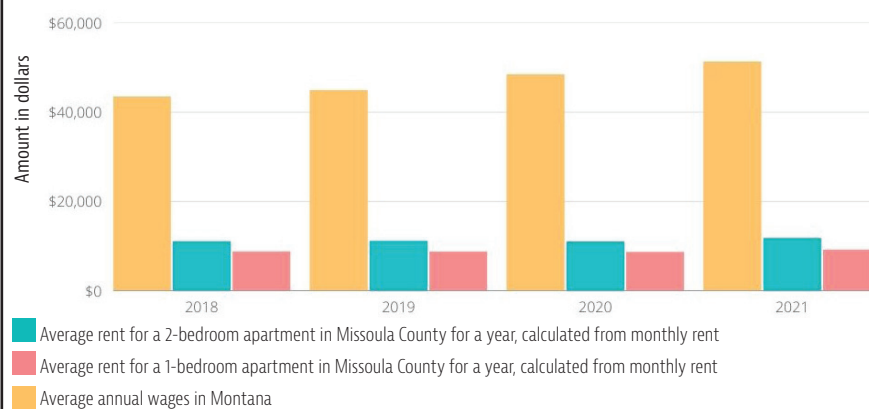
The relief plan’s start was delayed because of lawsuits against the plan that argued it excluded higher-income students. If the implementation of the relief program or the litigation is resolved, loan payments will restart 60 days later.

If the relief program is not implemented and the litigation has not been resolved by June 30, payments will resume 60 days after that, according to the relief application on the Federal Student Aid website.

Heaton suggested that something along the lines of a financial literacy course or financial literacy training would be beneficial for enrolled college students.

“[Debt] terrifies me because right now it’s out of sight, out of mind while I’m paying to keep myself alive,” Heaton said. “It’s incred-

AVERAGE APARTMENT COSTS IN MISSOULA VS. MT WAGES



Source: RentData.org.

ibly daunting that in the future I’m gonna have to worry about keeping myself alive on top of paying off that loan debt.”

Matthews said he decided to not accept loans out of concern for the impact long term rates would have on him and his family.

“The loan rate was kind of ridiculously high, honestly,” Matthews said. “There’d just be like no feasible way it could be paid back within, you know, a decent amount of time.”

Luca Welle, a sophomore double majoring in environmental studies and sustainability practices from Whitefish, inherited money from his family that was specifically intended to help him pay for college. He said the money is applied to anything related to his education, including meals and housing.

“I was lucky enough to get placed in Lewis and Clark for this academic year, which to me feels like one of the least stressful places to live and relatively affordable,” Welle said.

Welle, whose family income is around \$50,000, said he hasn’t needed to engage with financial aid resources very often besides applying for a few scholarships. He did not accept loans.

Freshman Marissa Ward said the University should base financial aid offers off of a student’s situation, not just what it looks like on paper. Her father, whom she said made good money, worked for a railroad in Glendive that shut down.

“A student’s family could make good income but also have financial strain like medical bills or, like me, relocation,” Ward said. “I received good scholarships and some financial aid, but we are pretty short on money right now, so they wouldn’t have been able to help me move to a college out-of-state. That definitely influenced my decision to come to UM.”

Heaton’s part-time job as the director of the Gender Equity Resource Center is only



Erin Heaton stands outside the UC on Jan. 15. Heaton is a sophomore at UM and took out student loans.

enough to cover gas and groceries. Heaton's savings, which are now "dwindling fast," were used to pay for rent. Heaton's plan is to work more — specifically, as a paid-intern for the Office of Inclusive Excellence this semester.

"That's not very good for anyone's mental health," Heaton said. "It's kind of disheartening that this is what I have to do just to have a roof over my head."

HOW THE PROMISE WORKS

Grizzly Promise utilizes multiple sources of aid, including federal and state funds, UM grants, tuition waivers and scholarship programs, Kuntz said. Scholarships included in the Grizzly Promise packages are also funded by donors through the UM Foundation.

For UM to gauge the level of support needed, incoming students need to fill out the 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Grizzly Promise is a last-dollar program, meaning other scholarships

received by a student are applied before the initiative covers the rest.

Last year the University awarded this same financial support to incoming students on the back end of tuition after a student enrolled at UM, but it was previously unnamed. The same support, now offered through Grizzly Promise, will be visible at the front of a student's application before enrolling.

"There are students getting that financial aid support on campus now, but the people who apply for it are the incoming students going forward," Kuntz said.

Accepted applicants will be eligible to renew the scholarship for eight semesters under the conditions that they keep a 2.5 grade-point average during college and file a FAFSA each year.

The University is working to not only recruit students trying to decide which college to attend, but also those choosing between school or "the construction business across town," according to Kuntz.

Other scholarship funds like the Western

Undergraduate Exchange program and UM's Academic Achievement Scholarship base reward amounts on higher student GPA and standardized test scores.

WUE, an option for incoming freshmen from Western states, now requires a 3.9 high school GPA and a 3.5 transfer GPA. UMAA, an option for incoming Montana freshmen, requires a 3.0 GPA, according to the UM Financial Aid Website.

The GPA requirement for the full WUE award was raised from 3.0 to an unweighted 3.95 last semester, and the tightened requirement aimed to spread scholarship dollars across more people by awarding individual students less, according to previous Kaimin reporting. The change means significantly fewer out-of-state students can qualify for the full award.

"Providing a scholarship where GPA is kind of underrated is really huge," Matthews said. "I can imagine so many of my friends that I went to high school with who didn't go to college probably would've if they could've gotten that."

While applying for UM scholarships through Flathead High School, Matthews found that he and many of his classmates didn't meet the GPA requirements needed.

"Admittedly, during my first two years of high school, I just didn't take it very seriously," Matthews said. "I was lucky I did band for three years and was really active in it, so that kind of pushed me over the edge for aid."

Matthews said the number of students in his class who went on to higher education was low because of poor funding and poor test scores.

"The outreach to lower GPA students was pretty bad," Matthews said. "I mean, there's obviously a correlation between low income and low GPA, so outreach to kids like me with 2.8 to 3.0 GPAs didn't result in many scholarships."

The scholarships included in Grizzly Promise packages are funded by donors through the UM Foundation. Since the start of the fall 2022 semester, \$6 million have been donated toward those scholarship funds.

"Scholarships are one of the areas that our donors are most passionate about," said Elizabeth Willy, the director of communications for the UM Foundation. "When donors establish scholarships with the UM Foundation, they understand what they're supporting and what type of students will benefit from their gift."

Heaton argues that mandatory fees at UM have a large toll on low income students and students with tuition waivers. The marketing of the fees and specifics about them feel "hidden" to lower income students, they said. Fees at UM cost around \$1,102 for full-time Montana students and \$3,990.60 for out-of-state students.

"There's not a lot of transparency about where the fees are going exactly," Heaton said. "If we just knew where our fees were going to, that would make students feel a lot better about paying them."

Full-time students are required to pay for different mandatory campus fees that fund Associated Students of the University of Montana, athletics, Campus Recreation and UM transportation, among others. Heaton has to pay two mandatory gym fees, one at Sawyer Living and the other at Campus Recreation.

With the Grizzly Promise, students' mandatory fees are also covered in the scholarship.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Targeted toward high school students, the Grizzly Promise has been promoted through postcards, emails, digital ads and media releases across the state, said associate director of enrollment management Sydney Hovenkotter.

UM not only provides promotional

information to Montana high schools, but it also notifies all in-state high school students registered in UM's enrollment database.

Registered students in the database would include students who have taken the ACT or the SAT, students that signed up for information about UM and in-state students.

Several current students who spoke with the Kaimin expressed the need for promoting and informing students on how to access UM scholarship opportunities, loan applications, FAFSA applications and non-UM related aid.

"I just think it's very confusing to apply for loans, also how to apply for FAFSA on the website," Heaton said. "Through the UM website, it's even harder to find scholarships out in the world that aren't from UM."

Hovenkotter, the associate director of enrollment management, was hired by the University last spring as new marketing and rebranding strategies began to develop.

Last year, Hovenkotter's job focused heavily on overseeing enrollment marketing, including Grizzly Promise and improving communication between the University and prospective Montana students.

"Grizzly Promise is targeted at Montana students specifically because [of] the cost of living rising in Missoula, and just kind of inflation in general," Hovenkotter said. "We want to take care of Montana, we want to take care of Montanans and we want to take care of Montana students."

Hovenkotter said marketing is promoting both in state and out of state but prioritizing recruitment to Montana students.

Heaton believed it would be beneficial for the University to try to pull in people from out of state instead of just trying to keep branding within the state.

Matthews hoped to qualify for Grizzly Promise, and said that it would have been a "godsend" for him. Aside from not being an incoming student, he meets all other requirements for the scholarship initiative.

"It's really a team effort," Matthews said. "You know, it takes a village to put a dude through college these days."

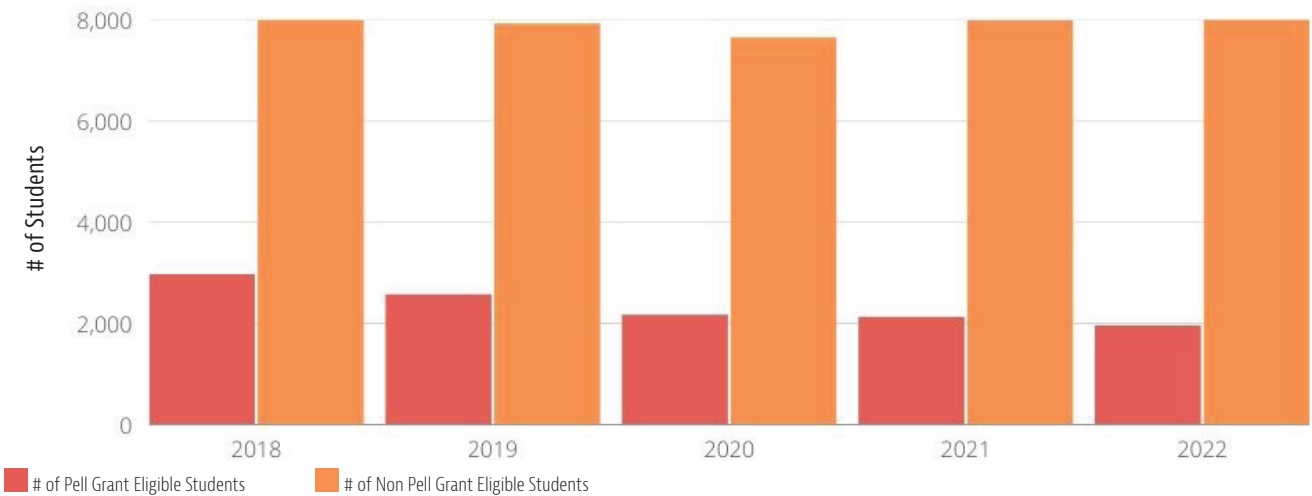
Montana high school students interested in participating in the Grizzly Promise initiative can do so by applying for admission to the University of Montana and completing a 2023-24 FAFSA, using code 002536. To learn more about this initiative, visit the Grizzly Promise webpage.

"Our goal is to entice more prospective students to apply to the University of Montana to learn exactly how much more aid they would be getting from the institution, because sometimes we find ourselves debating," Kuntz said.

To apply for scholarships provided by UM, visit the UM scholarship portal. For high school students interested in other scholarship opportunities, visit Reach Higher Montana.

By the numbers

Pell Grant Eligible Students Compared to Non Pell Grant Eligible Students, 2018-2022



In 2017:

28.1%

Approximately 28.1% of UM students were **eligible for Pell Grants**.



In 2023:

19.6%

Approximately 19.6% of UM students are **eligible for Pell Grants**.

31.9%

Approximately 31.9% of UM students were **first generation students**.



27%

Approximately 27% of UM students are **first generation students**.

In state students pay

\$1,102

in mandatory fees on top of tuition.

Source: UM's Institutional Research Census Enrollment Numbers and The Montana University System

To Friends of the United States, Central & Southwest Asia...

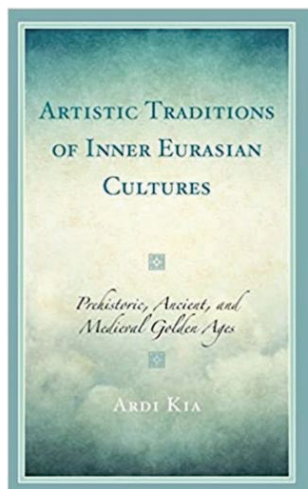
Central and Southwest Asian Studies program at the University of Montana, Missoula

The Central and Southwest Asian Studies program has been the heart of UM's internationalization efforts. It has taught thousands of students, many of whom have ended up with careers in private and governmental sectors.

Study the history, cultures, art, architecture, politics and societies of the vast region extending from western China to the Middle East and North Africa. The Central and Southwest Asian studies degree at UM explores a region of great strategic and political importance — making graduates of our program in demand both in the marketplace and the political landscape.

You'll find the faculty nothing short of exceptional — recognized nationally and internationally as leading experts in their fields of study. From its inception, the Central and Southwest Asian Studies faculty have won the most prestigious teaching awards, at the same time bringing to UM several million dollars in grants from external sources. The faculty members associated with the Central and Southwest Asian Studies program have published books that have been translated into other languages.

The Central and Southwest Asian Studies program provides you with the opportunity to study abroad in the Middle East, Central Asia, South Caucasus, China, and North Africa. This program prepares you well for an up close and personal understanding of this part of the world, rich with history, natural resources and geopolitical importance.



Artistic Traditions of Inner Eurasian Cultures

This book, *Artistic Traditions of Inner Eurasian Cultures*, is a critical work that extends 21st century scholarship of Central Asia broadly, and also integrates for the first time a macro-analysis of historical archaeology, art history, and an appreciation of the cultural pluralism, accomplishments and significance of Inner Eurasian civilizations, too long ignored.

The author, Prof. Ardi Kia, is the award-winning cofounder and codirector of Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program, (CSWA Center), at the University of Montana.



Missoula Community Theatre to perform 'wizard' parody 'Puffs'

KAYLA INGRAHAM

Kayla.Ingraham@umontana.edu

The Missoula Community Theatre plans to bring magic, potions and comedy to the stage for its upcoming Potter-esque "Puffs, or the Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic."

Following young wizards during their seven years at a magic school, the play focuses on "Puffs," or exceptionally unexceptional magic students. Written by playwright Matt Cox, "Puffs" is infused with comedic twists to well-known scenes a well known franchise, while actors impersonate many recognizable characters, some of which might have names like Ron, Hermione and Harry.

"I think that this show brings nostalgia, diversity and inclusivity to a story that we are all familiar with," said director Jasmine Sherman. "However, if you have not read the original book series, I think it is still a very rewarding story about underdogs and being a good person."

Sherman grew up in Montana and attended the University of Montana in 2012, where she received her Bachelor of Arts in music and acting. Sherman is currently a co-owner of MissCast Productions, a Missoula-based theatre company that has been around for about a year and a half.

Sherman did not direct her first show until last January. When she announced that she would be directing two more shows, Joseph Martinez, artistic director of MCT, reached out to her and asked if she would also be willing to direct "Puffs."

"It was kind of out of the blue," Sherman said. "I hadn't had much experience, but he had seen 'Dead Man's Cell Phone,' and liked it, so he thought why not give some new blood a chance at MCT. I am super happy that he reached out to me because it's a real payoff and validation that I do know what I'm doing."

Most of the show follows the script, but it is sprinkled with moments of improvisation. One of the characters, Zach Smith, played by Zachary Jarvis, a standup comedian, is given the freedom to improvise an entire monologue differently every night.

"There are some really talented comedians in this show, who are so good at getting laughs, and really skilled at reading the room, telling a story, and being entertaining," said Kera Rivera, who plays one of the leads, Megan Jones.

Rivera first got involved with Missoula's theatre community in 2012 after hearing an MCT advertisement on the radio asking



From left to right: lead actors for "Puffs" Hunter M. Carvey, Az Sacy and Kera Rivera pose in character before a rehearsal on Jan. 11. Performances open on Jan. 19. and take place at the Missoula Community Theatre Center for the Performing Arts. **CHRIS LODMAN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

for volunteers. Since, they have participated in multiple MCT productions and done freelance work as a stage manager, assistant director and actor. Rivera has also participated in stand-up comedy.

"Puffs" has over 50 characters played by 15 actors. There are four people in the cast with only one role, while the other four play at least eight characters each. These four actors with multiple roles differentiate their characters through wardrobe changes, facial expressions and changes in their voices. Cast members said that while the transitions are difficult at times, they enjoy collaborating with their creative peers.

"This show is extremely hilarious, and a full comedy, so I've just been having so much fun in the rehearsal room," said Sherman. "Everybody is just really funny and has been bringing so much of themselves to the characters and making such bold and hilarious choices. I haven't had to really pull stuff out

of anybody because they've all come with such great concepts of their characters and have wonderful comedic timings."

Those familiar with the original book series or movies on which the play is based will find amusement in the "Puffs" storyline. However, due to cursing and innuendos, the play is rated PG-13 and is not recommended for young children.

"If you are down for a show that is joke after joke, heavy laughter, and a little heartfelt, it's going to be the show for you," Sherman said.

Showtimes for "Puffs," are Jan. 19 - Jan. 22, and Jan. 26 - Jan. 29, at the Missoula Community Theatre. Tickets can be purchased online or at the MCT Box Office. Student-priced tickets are available for \$20.

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Dischon Thomas shows strides as top scorer for the Griz

MAX DUPRAS

max.dupras@umconnect.umt.edu

Dischon Thomas has been an X-factor for a Griz basketball team looking for redemption after a first-round exit in the Big Sky Conference tournament last year, but his journey didn't start in the Garden City.

Thomas is one of Montana's best scorers this season at 11.9 points per game and has been one of two integral transfers during this season, notching his 200th point for the Griz last Thursday in a loss to Weber State.

"It's been great," Thomas said. "I loved it out here. It's pretty chill for the most part. I'm kind of a laid back guy, so just the city's been nice and everywhere I go, people are nice and they'll recognize me from basketball."

The Durham, North Carolina, product played high school ball in Phoenix, Arizona,

where he averaged double-digit points and rebounds. His collegiate track started with a commitment to Nevada before eventually committing and signing to Mountain West rival Colorado State.

At CSU, he played a major role among a stacked roster featuring guys like future NBA player David Roddy. Starting nearly every game in his junior year, he averaged just under six points per game while shooting 40% from both the field and 3-point range.

His final game at Colorado State would signal the end of a tenure in Fort Collins that saw Thomas score a team high of 15 points against a stout Michigan squad in the NCAA Tournament.

This strong showing would put him on the map as he took off for the transfer portal, eventually finding a home at UM along with a familiar face.

Thomas' brother Dorell is a freshman

guard for the Griz. The brothers played together during their time at Hillcrest Prep. Dorell showed major strides as a young prospect, averaging nine points for a strong prep program in the western United States.

Dischon and Dorell played together at Hillcrest only for one season and once Dischon graduated, Dorell moved on to Skyline Prep in Phoenix, Arizona, where he eventually graduated.

"It's crazy," Thomas said. "Like, sometimes I'm in the moment, so I don't realize like, wow, my brother's like really here with me. But for the most part, I love it. I get to see him grow as a person."

The 22-year-old Dischon has moved around from the basketball city of Durham to the bright lights of Phoenix and now all the way up to Missoula, leagues smaller and farther from everything he has known.

But even in Fort Collins, Dischon found

a way to fit in. And, in Missoula, it is hard not to be welcomed when you play for one of the state's premier collegiate basketball teams. Along with senior guard Aanen Moody, he has been a part of a stout group of transfer athletes who have helped pull off major wins both in and out of conference play.

UM has been on and off this season, with a 3-3 record in conference as of Jan. 16, but Dischon has contributed in almost every game he has played. He had a high-light performance against conference rival Eastern Washington when he notched his first 20-point performance with Montana while knocking down four three-pointers and grabbing four rebounds.

"We got a lot of new guys, including myself, coming in. So it's been a little bit of adjustment, a little bit of up and down," Dischon said. "But, for the most part, we're coming together and we're gonna be better moving forward."

The new Grizzly is among many new faces on a team that lost eight players in the offseason. Head coach Travis DeCuire said the group has had problems practicing together due to injuries, keeping some players sidelined. But Dischon has played and started every game this season.

"He's an incredible young man that is very selfless," DeCuire said. "At the end of the day, he's of the few that you can actually look in the eye, tell the truth, whether it's something he wants to hear or not. He soaks it in...and guys like him are the ones you wanna see be successful."

Montana will face off against the in-state rival Montana State Bobcats on Jan. 21. The team is currently sixth in the Big Sky with a 3-3 record.



University of Montana forward Dischon Thomas plays defense against Weber State's Dillon Jones in a Jan. 12 game at Dahlberg Arena. The matchup ended in a 57-59 loss for the Grizzlies. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

What are Griz basketball transfers doing now?

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

In college basketball, players no longer have to sit out a year when they transfer schools. This has led to an increase in transfers across college basketball, including at the University of Montana. Last year three eligible players departed the Lady Griz and seven left the men's team. So what are these former Griz up to now?

LADY GRIZ

SOPHIA STILES

Stiles played in 103 games over four seasons at UM before transferring to Florida Gulf Coast University in May 2022. FGCU is a Division I team that plays in the Atlantic Sun Conference. The Eagles are 17-2. In ESPN's last NCAA Tournament Projections, FGCU is expected to be the 10 seed. Stiles has started in every game, averaging 6.8 points per game and 5.2 rebounds a game. This season's point per game average is the second-lowest of Stiles' career (her sophomore year was the lowest), but FGCU has a better record than any Lady Griz team Stiles played on. Stiles was recently featured on a daily Sports Illustrated cover for a story about FGCU'S offense.

LAMPRINI POLYMERI

Polymeni attended the University of Montana for one year, and played in seven total games. In those seven games, Polymeni scored three points in 28 minutes of total play time. Polymeni now plays for Eunikos, a team in her home country of Greece, according to EuroBasket's website. In 14 games played, she averages nine points per game. She scored 11 points in her first game with the club, surpassing her UM total in six fewer games.

KYNDALL KELLER

Keller spent two seasons at UM and played in 49 total games for the Lady Griz. She averaged 3.7 point per game in her career with the Lady Griz before she transferred to Carroll College, a non-Division I school in Helena. Keller has played 19 games for Carroll this season and is averaging a career high 11.2 point per game. She has started every game for the Saints, who are ranked as the 18th best team in the country's NAIA Women's Basketball Poll.

GRIZ

KYLE OWENS

Owens played for the Griz for three seasons and started in 34 games. In his sophomore year, he averaged 10.5 points per game. Owens announced that he was transferring to the University of California Riverside after the 2021-22 season after he didn't start any games for the Griz. With UCR, Owens has started in



Former University of Montana guard Sophia Stiles looks down the court as the opposing team dribbles the ball in a game on Feb. 16, 2022. Stiles now plays for Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Meyers. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

16 of 18 games and is averaging 9.6 points per game. UCR is a Division I team that plays in the Big West Conference and is currently in second place with a conference mark of 5-1.

JOHNNY BRAGGS

Braggs spent one year at the University of Montana and doesn't have any listed stats on UM's website. He is now listed as a redshirt freshman on the roster for the College of Southern Nevada, a junior college in the Las Vegas area. Braggs has played in 14 games for the Coyotes. He has started in two of CSN's last four games and is averaging 6.3 points per game. The Coyotes are 8-11 overall and have a 2-5 record in the Scenic West Athletic Conference.

ROBBY BEASLEY III

Beasley spent two years at UM as a premier scorer for the Griz. He averaged 11.2 points a game for the Griz before transferring to the University of California Davis, which plays in the Big Sky Conference in football but the Big West Conference in basketball. Beasley is averaging a career-high 12.4 points per game for UC Davis, but has played in 11 of the Aggies 17 games. UC Davis is 10-7 this season and sits

in sixth place in the Big West.

CAMERON PARKER

Parker transferred to Montana from Sacred Heart University and played two seasons for the Griz. Parker has the NCAA record for assists in a game and led the Big Sky in assists per game in both his years at UM. He used a COVID-19 eligibility waiver to play an extra year at Portland State University, a fellow Big Sky Conference team. Parker once again leads the Big Sky in assists per game, averaging at a career high of 14.7 points per game. Parker made headlines this year when he was suspended for one game by the conference for an "incident" in a postgame handshake line, where he appeared to throw a punch. PSU hasn't played UM yet and the Vikings are one place behind the Griz in standings.

FREDDY BROWN III

Brown played for three seasons at UM and earned a scholarship after walking on to the team. He scored 57 total points in 137 minutes of action for the Griz. Brown is using his final year of eligibility to play for Central Washington University, a Division II college in Ellensburg. Brown has played in seven games for

CWU, averaging 4.6 points per game. He also started a game for the Wildcats, something he never did at UM. CWU is 6-10 overall in the 2021-22 season. Brown hasn't appeared in any of CWU's three games in 2023.

JACK WETZEL

Wetzel appeared in 10 games at UM during his freshman season. He scored 12 total points in 43 minutes of action. He is now on the roster of Southeastern Community College, which is located in his home state of Iowa. Wetzel has started in all 19 games for SCC and is averaging a career high 13.2 points per game. The Blackhawks are 16-4 overall.

DERRICK CARTER-HOLLINGER

Carter-Hollinger spent three years at UM and played in 84 games for the Griz. Carter-Hollinger averaged 6.4 points per game in his final season with the Griz before transferring to Bethune-Cookman, a Division I school in Florida. Carter-Hollinger is averaging 6.0 points per game, 3.7 rebounds per game and has started one game for the Wildcats. Bethune-Cookman is 6-11 overall and currently sits at 8th place in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Hot wax and cold beer at Cranky Sam

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Gull Ski and Snowboard set up shop at Cranky Sam Public house on Thursday for “Hot Wax, Cold Beer.”

Customers who bought a drink from the bar could drop off their skis or snowboard to be waxed by the Gull Ski and Snowboard staff. The event ran from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and after start-time, the space was packed with snow lovers looking to get a fresh wax on their skis and boards. Gull employees took turns waxing more than 45 pairs of skis and snowboards during the night.

The process of waxing is done to protect skis from scratches while making them glide faster over snow. Ski wax is melted over the skis or snowboard, then an iron is used to press the wax into scratches that form from regular use. After drying, the excess wax is scraped off.

The purpose of the event is to make ski maintenance and care more accessible to the public while bringing the Missoula snow sports community closer together. Shea Stalgren, a sales associate for Gull, is relatively new to Missoula and says she loves being a part of the skiing community here.

“I have never been a part of a community like this,” Stalgren said. “Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful and they just want to have a good time with you. And it doesn’t matter your skill level.”



ABOVE: Wax shavings pile up on a workbench. Gull Ski and Snowboard employees waxed between 45 and 50 boards and skis during the event.

BELOW: Shea Stalgren uses a scraper to remove the excess wax from a split board. Skis can take two minutes to scrape while boards take around five.



ABOVE: Joe Chalmers uses an iron to melt wax into scratches and grooves in a ski, smoothing out the surface.

FAR RIGHT: Kyle Kamischke inspects a ski at Cranky Sam Public House during its “Hot Wax, Cold Beer” night. Customers could buy a drink from the bar in exchange for a board or ski wax from Gull Ski and Snowboard.

