

MONTANA KAIMIN



Reviving the hunt



HUNTING IN THE U.S. IS ON THE DECLINE.
STUDENTS ARE TEACHING OTHERS HOW TO HUNT ETHICALLY.

Story by Riley Comstock | Photos by Diego Hernandez

7 Administrator fined \$1 million

13 Soccer psychology

15 Campus lookalikes

Cover photo by Diego Hernandez

December 5, 2024 | Volume 127 | Issue No. 14



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

EDITORIAL STAFF NEWSROOM STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Claire Bernard

BUSINESS MANAGER
Drew Craig

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Keely Proebstel

NEWS EDITOR
Corbin Vanderby

SPORTS EDITOR
Holly Malkowski

AUDIO EDITOR
Bayliss Flynn

COPY CHIEF
Mariah Henry

DESIGN EDITOR
Mackenna Gleave

DIGITAL EDITOR
Caydence Martin

FEATURES EDITOR
Clayton Murphy

MULTIMEDIA EDITORS
Marley Barboeisel
Aiden Havens

NEWS REPORTERS
Sav Chavez
Elle Daniel
Emily Messer
Emma White
Abigail Williams

SPORTS REPORTERS
Hannah Benitez
Riley Comstock
Maxwell Johnson
Sophia Ward

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS
Sara Flindt
Kairi Lising
Grace Simonich
Kate Widmer

AUDIO REPORTER
Chandler Lieb

MULTIMEDIA
James Benton
Brooke Bickers
James Celano
Diego Hernandez
Marc Anthony Martinez
Katy McCumber
Rachel Yeager

COPY EDITORS
Eliza Carey
Tessa Macklin

DESIGNERS
Julia Branen
Dane Clements
Henry Doellinger

CARTOONIST
Barrett Clement

SOCIAL MEDIA ASSISTANT
Lauren Reinhart

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
Fiona Grace
Madeline Grebb
Leah Goodwin

ADVISERS
Jason Begay
William Wan

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@Montanakaimin



@Montanakaimin
@Montanakaiminsports



@Montanakaimin
@Kaiminsports



@Montana Kaimin
@montanakaimin203

For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact
claire.bernard@umontana.edu
or call (406) 243-4310.

For advertising opportunities, contact
kaiminads@outlook.com
or call (304) 596-7873.



Can't get enough? *Start listening.*
Scan the QR code to the left for
THE KAIMIN CAST. New podcast
episodes out every other Monday.

CLASSIFIEDS



Nika Services

Cleaning Company Missoula: move-out, deep, carpet, floor, windows & more
w: nika-services.com p: (406) 595-6209 Free Quotes Online

House for rent

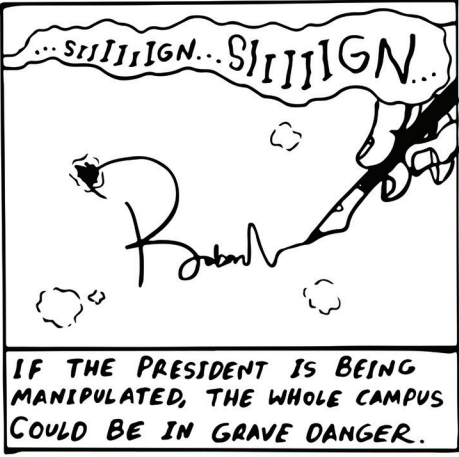
Fully Furnished 1 bed, 1 bath House for Rent
Available from December 7th, 2024 to May 1st
\$1250/mo, all utilities and internet included
(406)-866-0981

Amazon



Amazon is hiring in Missoula for Delivery Station Associates. Start dates in December at \$18.50/hr. Apply online at amazon.com/flexiblejobs.

DETECTIVE SQUIRREL: SE 2 EP 7



Campus should stay open over break

Although we would all like to assume everyone has somewhere to go for the holidays, the hard truth is, for some students at the University of Montana, winter break doesn't mean coming home to family and friends.

Sometimes, the five-week break can mean a scramble to find temporary housing and difficulty getting affordable food, squeezing college students' already thin budget even further. Instead of keeping campus offices, residence halls and dining services open for winter break, UM has continuously decided to shut the campus down, prioritizing making money over students' basic necessities. It is time the University realizes the importance of providing affordable winter break amenities for its students' wellbeing.

Not every student can afford the plane ticket or gas money to go home. Some are just coming out of the foster care system and don't have a family to stay with, and others have families who aren't in a place to have their kid come stay for almost a month and a half.

Campus only fully closes during the five weeks between fall and spring semesters and for a couple of weeks during the summer. It operates, in some capacity, for the rest of the year, providing crucial resources across campus like housing and food.

In 2020, the Hope Center surveyed nearly 195,000 students and found 48% of students reported experiencing some kind of housing insecurity. Likewise, the Government Accountability Office estimates around 23% of college kids experience food insecurity. It is clear there is a demand for these fundamentals.

UM has consistently prided itself on recruiting lower-income and Pell Grant students, but when it closes campus, it can put those very students they brag about in jeopardy. In the fall of 2024, almost 2,500 students at UM were Pell Grant recipients and around 32% of all UM students use Pell Grants. If UM wants to maintain its edge in recruiting students from lower-income households, patching up the

crisis some students face come mid-December would help.

For some students, financial aid is the only way they can afford to remain housed, and because of how the system is set up, the aid can only be applied to on-campus housing.

But UM closes the dorms every winter break. Students who need to remain in the residence halls must pay \$25 a day. If they stay for more than 15 days, it costs \$350 in total. Not only can this force students to slip into debt, it could also cause them to temporarily lose their housing if they can't foot the bill. The cost to stay in the dorms is largely overpriced because the benefits of living on campus are nearly depleted over break. Classes aren't held, offices shut down and dining closes, leaving students stranded in a ghost town.

Shutting down dining can also cause students to go hungry — especially for those who, once again, rely on financial aid to cover their on-campus meal plans. Students already pay

upward of \$3,500 for one semester, so offering free meals to those who have to spend winter break at UM shouldn't break the dining bank.

Keeping all of campus open for the full break is pricey, but administration has to be willing to find some accommodations that convince students that the price they are paying just to exist is worth staying for. The University could choose a couple of residence halls to keep open for free over the break or choose one or two dining facilities to maintain. It could even build a winter break bill into fall or spring tuition to allow financial aid to cover the costs.

The Curry Health Center is open almost every week over break, so it's obvious the University is aware some things are necessary. But it needs to recognize housing and food are just as essential.

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at
claire.bernard@umontana.edu

Locking in



Students sit in the University Center to study and snack on Dec. 2. With finals ahead, students will be spending an increasing amount of time cramming. The Sleep Foundation has reported that during finals week, the average student only gets about 6.36 hours of sleep each night, less than the recommended 7-9 hours. **MARLEY BARBOEISEL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

Copyright 2024 by The Puzzle Syndicate

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:

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

Pacific Islanders Club declines UM recognition; UM health researchers receive national award

PACIFIC ISLANDERS CLUB OFFICIALLY LOSES ASUM RECOGNITION

The University of Montana Pacific Islanders Club was removed from the Associated Students of the University of Montana last spring and has chosen to not reapply for recognition this year.

"Pacific Islanders Club was given the opportunity to reapply for recognition this year, on the condition that the group choose new leadership and that those leaders participate in training on ASUM's student group policies," Elizabeth Kamminga, the Student Senate president, said.

The club's recognition was suspended after multiple policy violations last spring, according to Kamminga. Last year the Kaimin reported the club conducted an unauthorized bake sale and violated multiple policies related to the Senate's fundraiser conditions, leading to the freezing of the student group's bank account.

Following this, the club claimed the punishment it received from the Student Senate was based in systemic racism and direct messages from the group's Instagram stated it has no intent to appeal any decision.

"ASUM's perspective is that its policies are in place to promote an inclusive and vibrant student experience while also requiring transparency and accountability from student groups and their leaders," Kamminga stated.

Recognized clubs are eligible for funding from the Senate, access to University resources, discounted UM catering costs and other opportunities, according to Kamminga. Clubs like this have to follow the University's and student government's policies, such as maintaining group bank accounts to ensure all funds are being used properly.

When the Kaimin contacted the Pacific Islanders Club for comment, it sent an email saying, "PIC received an ultimatum," and the leadership chose not to proceed with recognition.

"We are incredibly proud of all the events and engagement we've been a part of, the memories we've enjoyed [and] continue to create and the success we've seen as our Indigenous and Pacific Islander students and members progress into wonderful leaders within their communities," the Pacific Islanders Club wrote in its statement. "We look forward to the exciting events and experiences that lie ahead in the new year. We are proud to be Grizzlies and thankful for this journey together!"

When the club decided to not be recog-

nized, it lost its space in the Branch Center, according to Emily Ferguson-Steger, the director of Student Life. The Branch Center is a space in the University Center dedicated to student diversity and inclusion to promote respectful dialogue and resources for underrepresented students. Student groups such as the Black Student Union, Gender Equity Resource Center, LAMBDA Alliance and the Latine Student Union are provided office spaces within the Branch Center.

"It is unfortunate that PIC leadership's actions have led to the apparent dissolution of a club that undoubtedly could have continued to contribute to the student experience at UM," Kamminga said.

(Emily Messer)

UM RESEARCHERS AWARDED FOR WORK IN MENTAL HEALTH

Project SELA, which stands for Social Emotional Learning in Arlee, has received the 2024 Public Impact Research Award from the National Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities during its annual meeting Nov. 10 to Nov. 12.

The project, which began in 2017 by University of Montana researchers and community officials in Arlee, promotes mental health on the Flathead Indian Reservation and received the award at an association meeting in mid-November for research that produced public impact.

"This award is a testimony to the strengths of the Arlee community, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and their unwavering dedication and love for the children," Jingjing Sun, a researcher, said to UM News.

Partnering with public schools in Arlee, the project created a program called Pathways to Wellness. The program started by teaching Indigenous students in third through sixth grade about mental health paired with cultural values of students' tribes. In 2023 the program grew to include kindergarten through second grade and is now in the process of including seventh and eighth grade.

According to the Center for Native American Youth, suicide rates are almost 3.5 times higher in Indigenous teens than the national average, with suicide being the second leading cause of death in Indigenous people ages 10 to 24.

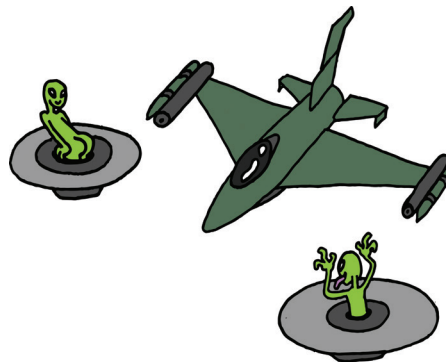
Sun said this program has helped students in Arlee build improved social and emotional competencies by teaching them formally about mental health.

The project also led to the publishing of studies on the Pathway to Wellness with the goal of sharing the best methods to improve mental health within Indigenous communities.

"Research that improves the lives of communities across the country is a central mission for public universities, and we're thrilled to highlight an institution that has worked with its community to tackle mental health challenges in areas that are far too often underserved," said President Mark Becker of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities to UM News.

(Corbin Vanderby)

The UAPs: A gaze into alien life



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Unidentified flying objects have been rebranded as Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, UAPs, in an attempt to legitimize conversations surrounding them. This might be working, considering Congress held an official hearing Nov. 13 to further uncover what, if anything, government organizations know of UAPs. "I could see government officials who maybe have encountered some sort of alien technology or alien life forms ... having motivation to cover things up," said Chani Nava, an exoplanet researcher at UM. Listen to hear a student share their close encounter with alien hunters.



New episodes out every other Monday. Scan for the latest.

POLICE BLOTTER

ABBY WILLIAMS

abby.williams@umontana.edu

Welcome back from Thanksgiving. I hope you all are feeling stuffed and ready for some mischief and finals. Don't unpack your suitcase yet, winter break is almost here. However, unwrap those mischievous ideas, because I don't know what will trump this week's crimes.

SUNDAY, NOV. 17 - MAN UP

An officer made a traffic stop at 7 p.m. The driver had a warrant out for his arrest. The driver was arrested and taken to the county jail. This has to be the stupidest thing to do if you have a warrant on your head. Man up and walk your guilty ass to the police station. (This is to be read in a Matthew McConaughey voice.)

TUESDAY, NOV. 19 - TWO FOR ONE

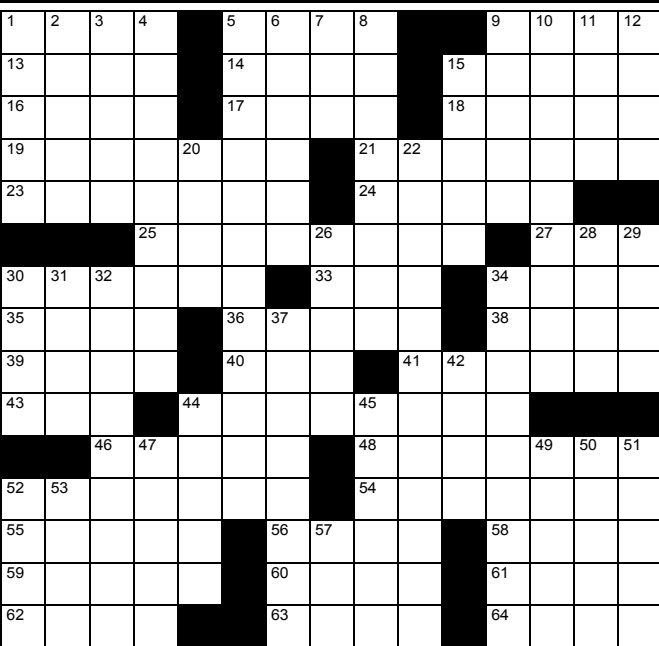
A student in Aber Hall's lobby was given a minor in possession charge at 10 p.m. The underage student was in possession of alcohol, which got them a citation. To make matters worse, the student had also slammed a door, which a resident assistant had heard, so the student ALSO got a disorderly conduct warning. Damn. Two for one, huh?

WEDNESDAY NOV. 20 - BACK TO SCHOOL

This one's hilarious. A person who has been permanently banned from the University campus has made it their mission to come back. The person took a job as an Uber Eats delivery person and was recognized when dropping off an order. The University of Montana Police Department told the person they could keep their job, but to not come back. UMPD did let the person complete the order. I'm glad the student got their food. If it was me, I'd be visting him in jail to get my Chipotle bowl.

FRIDAY, NOV. 22 - JAIL BESTIES

A police officer pulled over an erratic driver who was having some trouble parking on campus at 10 p.m. The driver was drunk and was given an aggravated DUI, which is when the breathalyzer is higher than 0.16. The driver was arrested and given a citation. Maybe these two shitty drivers can give each other tips while sitting in jail together. That would be a team-up for the ages.



Copyright 2024 by The Puzzle Syndicate

ACROSS

- 1 ____ Romeo
- 5 It's sold in bars
- 9 Canned meat since 1937
- 13 Pale anagram
- 14 More than suggest
- 15 Madcap comedy
- 16 Fluid rock
- 17 Like the fabled piper
- 18 Motionless
- 19 Be in charge of
- 21 Summer quencher
- 23 "Hondo", for one
- 24 Prickly shrub
- 25 Very skillful
- 27 Hoops grp.
- 30 Maintain
- 33 Sign before Virgo
- 34 Think tank nugget
- 35 Krasinski of Hollywood
- 36 Work shirker
- 38 In the vicinity
- 39 Quite often
- 40 Piece of pipe
- 41 Parody
- 43 Detail on some tickets
- 44 Acme
- 46 Medium's deck
- 48 Classic Dodge
- 52 Bond's drink
- 54 Franc division
- 55 Words to live by
- 56 Flower part
- 58 Iris's place
- 59 "Cheers" role
- 60 Coloring
- 61 Road turn
- 62 Vogue rival

- 63 Adjusts, as a clock
- 64 Means justifiers, at times

DOWN

- 1 Give the OK
- 2 Way off base?
- 3 Top picks, informally
- 4 Common rental
- 5 Lucky horse-shoe, e.g.
- 6 Get one's bearings
- 7 Go gray
- 8 AKC concern
- 9 Smooths, as wood
- 10 Made believe
- 11 Part of a plot
- 12 Prefix with physics or data
- 15 Like some speeches
- 20 Char, as a steak
- 22 Decorator's concerns
- 26 Pompeo of "Grey's Anatomy"
- 28 Bridges of Hollywood
- 29 Org. for seniors
- 30 Cracked
- 31 Without help
- 32 Rigged court proceeding
- 34 River float, at times
- 37 ADA members
- 42 Zip
- 44 Kind of number
- 45 Actor's study, perhaps
- 47 Make amends
- 49 1999 film, "Any ____ Sunday"
- 50 Revise
- 51 Digests digests
- 52 Like some beds
- 53 Leaf-stem angle
- 57 Corn site

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

FRAP-o-scope

MARLEY BARBOEISEL

marley.barboeisel@umontana.edu

Female rappers are notoriously underrated. Who else is out here dancing and singing the way they do? People would love to see Kendrick Lamar throw it back while spitting bars or have 21 Savage drop into the splits while rapping about drugs and money, but they just don't do it like their female counterparts. Everyone has some female rapper energy inside of them. So, pop in some earbuds and get ready to shake it when you find out what female rapper you really are.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): Okurrrrr! You're an underdog like no other, just like this stripper-turned-rapper. Unlike you, she's been out here making money moves and topping charts with songs that describe the moisture levels of her private parts. WAP! You're crushing it, Cardi B, but you best be careful!

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Your friends and lovers are lucky to have you and you're gonna remind them. Latto, you're hardworking. Maybe you're trying to get something as big as "Big Energy" again or embarking on a different challenge, but you're giving it your all. Stick with it, because you're killing it, Big Latto. Jackpot coming soon!

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18): You are probably familiar with Montana's skiing, but Sexyy Red's "SkeeYee" is more your style. You're naughty and eccentric. Unfortunately, you may have fallen off a bit recently considering what's happened with your "Rich Baby Daddy" ... but we have faith that you can make it through. Stay strong and get it, Sexyy!

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Probably the earliest artist on this list to talk about sex in a song, Salt-N-Pepa likes to push it. You're a classic like no other, bringing next-level creativity to the table. As much as others might like to think it's them, you know you've got the best style out there. The '80s and '90s trends are coming back and you're here for it.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

You're the baddest bitch. Red hair or nah, you must channel your inner Ice Spice. Release the fire because we all know that in the street or at a deli, you can shake it like jelly. Don't stop destroying, everyone

wants to be your favorite munch. Grah!

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Hey, Saweetie! If your best friend isn't a Gemini, we might have a problem. More importantly, remember that it's OK to let go sometimes. Relax a bit, tap in and you'll definitely find someone that's your type. Be open, honest and make sure they are too, or else it's back to the streets.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): If you haven't buzzed and bleached your head yet, let's start there. As Doja Cat, you're probably the freakiest person you know, but don't worry! It's all good, if you say so. Begging for more kisses will only get you so far. Get into it, yuh.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): People probably think of you as an old soul. Lauryn Hill, your classic style, nostalgic sound and sentimental library has touched many. Your ability to connect with a variety of people plays well for you. Don't let other people softly kill your intuitive spirit. Believe in yourself and remember that everything really is everything.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): It's Barbie, bitch. As Nicki Minaj, you strut through the world like it's yours — because it is. You must continue to lead since you've done so well, Queen. Everybody loves you, but don't let it get to your head. Yikes!

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): They don't ever wanna lose you, Flo Milli. Don't let your quick temper ruin your style. And don't spend too much time making it perfect. It never will be and that's OK. It's Flo Milli shit and that's what matters.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): You're the definition of real hot girl shit. You're the original savage, Megan Thee Stallion. Who knows who paid your tuition just to kiss you on that you-know-what, but it sounds like a good deal! You're charming, stylish, social and always down to collab or be a friend. No plan B, you keep it up girl!

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):

Yeah Glo! You, GloRilla, are going places. If people don't know about you, they prolly should. A Grammy nomination and some pretty legendary features are cool, but you're mysterious, so who knows what you'll be up to tomorrow. You know the procedure on gang, so keep them on their toes. Let's gooooo!



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Student healthcare coverage faces changes

EMMA WHITE

emma.white@umontana.edu

Lindsay Bolin turned 26 this past week, marking the end of the stable health insurance she receives from her parents' coverage.

Bolin won't be able to cover her own health insurance for two months, which is when she will start to receive health care benefits from her current job. This has been worrisome for her, as she is diagnosed with multiple mental health disorders, which led to a weeklong stay at a psychiatric hospital last May. Bolin said even though the stay saved her life, she would hesitate to go back if she was uninsured.

"I saw the bill for that without insurance, and it would have financially ruined me to a point where I wouldn't go back if I didn't have insurance," Bolin said.

On top of insurance, University of Montana students like Bolin may be facing an increased struggle for care in the coming few years due to Curry Health Center's potential plan to start billing insurance, rather than charging students a base fee, and the potential termination of Medicaid expansion in Montana.

For Curry Health Center, it's becoming increasingly clear that it is reaching capacity, according to Brian Chaszar, the director of finances and operations.

Chaszar said he's seen the center make a number of changes over the time he's worked with it to attempt to evolve and meet the needs of students.

"The fact is, this staff here has reduced probably 30% or more in the last decades," Chaszar said. "It used to be open 24/7, available to students. So we've reduced staff, we've reduced hours and that's the direction that we've continued to go. So that's why we need to find a way to turn that around."

Chaszar said all of the Curry Health Center's current operations are funded by a student health fee of \$291 that is charged to every student's tuition bill, which is how they are able to keep a base rate of \$20 for all students' office visits to the clinic. Using the total fall enrollment numbers, the Curry Health Center has received over \$3 million this semester, but it is still not enough to keep the center afloat, according to Chaszar.

To attempt to fix their financial situation, Chaszar said the center is tentatively planning to start billing insurance providers



Curry Health Center sits on Eddy Avenue., where students can receive professional help for mental, physical or dental health. **RACHEL YEAGER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

for students' visits, rather than charging the base \$20 fee. This would mean students with unstable insurance coverage, like Bolin, would need to come up with the full bill if they chose to come to Curry for care.

"This is not rubber stamped yet," Chaszar said. "This is where we're going to have to go if we want to continue to meet the demand for health services here for students."

Chaszar said he is unsure of how the plan would unfold if it was approved by the Board of Regents. Curry Health Center has satellite clinics at three Montana universities, which are all largely modeled the same and overseen by the Montana University System. He said there may be a trial period where two of those clinics starts the program and assesses the results.

This proposed reworking of the center's billing process is coming at the same time that Montana's Medicaid expansion, an insurance program that extends Medicaid services to people who make 138% of the

poverty line or less, is up for termination or renewal. The Montana Legislature will come to a decision about Medicaid expansion in the coming session this winter, which starts in January.

According to a presentation done by Bryce Ward, a health economist who studies Medicaid expansion in Montana, 16% of Montanans are currently covered under Medicaid expansion and 13% of Missoulians are as well.

Ward said this statistic remains similar when looking at the college-aged population in Montana. While this is not a large percentage, Ward said, it is a significant amount of people who will lose coverage if the program is discontinued.

While Bolin is not insured under Medicaid expansion, she said she may have to take loans from her parents to afford some of her necessary medications during the gap period between insurances. The cost for a half dose of the generic mood stabilizers

she needs is around \$50 to \$60 per month, with the name brand version peaking around \$600 per month.

She's also had to deliberate on whether to continue medical care that is necessary for her wellbeing, due to the expected cost.

"I'm not sure if I get to keep my therapist, or if I can afford to continue to go to therapy during that period of time where I don't have insurance," Bolin said.

Chaszar said they are working to adapt to the needs of students while being able to stay afloat within the system, which he said is "in severe need of overhaul."

"It's well known that in America, we spend the most money per capita, per human being, on health in general, and we have the lowest health outcome of any developed nation," Chaszar said. "So we're not immune to that here. We're just part of that system. We do the best we can to change that for our students, but we're fighting against an enormous system."

UM administrator faces \$1 million in legal fines

SAV CHAVEZ

savannah.chavez@umontana.edu

The University of Montana vice provost of student affairs is currently facing up to \$1 million in fines from her previous job after the conclusion of a lawsuit.

Leslie Webb began her work at UM in 2022 following her employment at Montana Technological University and her 13-year career at Boise State University. In her time at BSU, she found herself in the center of a court case that would leave her on the hook for up to \$1 million in fines while making a salary of \$160,000 at UM.

"I was shocked by the verdict," Webb said. "I upheld the First Amendment and folks' right to free speech. Not for some, like the plaintiffs demanded, but for all, like the First Amendment requires."

In 2020, Big City Coffee, a local coffee shop in Boise, Idaho, appeared in an on-campus location to replace Starbucks. It wasn't long after the arrival of the shop that students began to voice their grievances with the coffee shop, some going as far as to say the campus used "limited white feedback" when selecting the shop and "political affiliation and race" were not considered, according to the meeting minutes of Sept. 29, 2020, where the vice president of Boise State's Inclusive Excellence Council spoke on the issue.

The owner of Big City Coffee, Sarah Jo Fendley, had displayed a Thin Blue Line emblem in her downtown shop since 2016 in support of her then fiancé who had been shot five times in his line of duty as a police officer.

Fendley declined to comment on the case to the Montana Kaimin.

Following a series of comments made regarding Fendley's presence on campus, Webb found it within her responsibility as vice provost of student affairs to listen to the students and find a solution that would best represent everyone.

Webb decided to support freedom of speech by allowing students to speak their minds, seeing it as not the University's role to take a stance on either side of the conflict. This led to Fendley issuing the lawsuit, believing she was pushed off campus.

The lawsuit accuses the University of violating the Idaho Consumer Protection Act, committing fraud by omission and

Summer 2020

Big City Coffee is selected to replace Starbucks on Boise State University's Campus.

October 1, 2021

Fendley sues current Boise State administrator Alicia Estey and former administrator Leslie Webb over First Amendment issues saying she was pushed off campus because of her political views.

September 30, 2024

Attorneys for Estey and Webb move for an appeal.

October 2020

Associated Students of Boise State University Chief of Staff complains about Big City Coffee's Thin Blue Line emblem. Owner of Big City Coffee, Sarah Jo Fendley, is called into a meeting with administrators and was asked close the shop until January to let the controversy settle. Based off of the meeting, Fendley alleges her company was forced off campus.

September 13, 2024

After a 6-week trial, Big City Coffee successfully sues Webb and Estey for \$4 million. Webb is personally sued \$1 million for punitive damages.

"knowingly, wrongly and intentionally" interfering with a contract awarded to Big City Coffee in May 2020. Webb was personally fined for her part in punitive damages, including lost reputation and humiliation, by nine of the 12 jurors on Sept. 13. Unlike criminal cases, civil cases, in some jurisdiction and situations, only require a majority of jurors to agree in order to issue a verdict.

In October 2020, Fendley was called into a meeting with Webb and Boise State University's Chief Financial and Operating Officer and Vice President for Finance and Operations Alicia Estey, where she was asked to close her shop until January to let the tension with the students settle. This led Fendley to believe she was being pushed off the campus by University officials.

Boise State University stated it believes the evidence demonstrated that the University was honoring the First Amendment rights of all involved.

"We respectfully but strongly disagree with the verdict and plan to appeal," Boise State University stated in an email to the Kaimin. "College campuses must support the free exchange of ideas. We will continue to educate and encourage meaningful dialogue for the health of our democracy."

Following the verdict that held Webb

accountable for up to \$1 million in fines, she and Estey began to seek an appeal.

Webb said she doesn't feel the verdict was fair and does not align with the questions posed to the jury or the evidence produced during the trial. Evidence provided in the trial that is currently being appealed included a Snapchat post on a student's private story that Fendley wanted the University to address.

In the memorandum, a document written by lawyers to inform clients or courts about specific legal issues, in support of Webb and Estey, it states there is a need for Fendley's repeated demand to outwardly speak in support of Big City Coffee and continuous ultimatums to leave if she didn't feel supported as necessary evidence that was not presented.

University of Montana spokesman Dave Kuntz was on the hiring committee for Webb when she applied while involved in the ongoing case, and said he felt that she was the most qualified for the position and appreciated her honesty about the situation.

"It's her job to listen to students, advocate for students and work for students," Kuntz said. "That's one of the reasons the University hired her. In every aspect of that factor she has been incredibly successful."

MACKENNA GLEAVE | MONTANA KAIMIN

However, Kuntz said the University will not financially support Webb with the fine as UM will not get involved with the case.

"That all took place over at Boise. Our University was very removed from it," he said.

Webb found herself at UM after being a finalist for vice presidency positions at Loyola Marymount, Chico State University, DePauw University, Ohio University and the University of Montana. Webb has found her place at the University of Montana and has the support of the people she works close with.

"She's always had the support of the University, whether it be her office, our office or the leaders of the University. We've always felt that she's an incredible asset to our campus and she's had the University's full support throughout," Kuntz said.

Webb plans to continue her work for the students at UM and looks forward to her employment in Missoula as she navigates her way through the appeal process with BSU.

"I will continue to do this work even when folks with opposing views choose not to participate," Webb said. "My commitment to the importance of higher education has only been strengthened."

Reviving the hunt

ONE UM CLUB HAS BEEN WORKING TO MENTOR
ASPIRING HUNTERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE FOR TEN YEARS.

Story by Riley Comstock | Photos by Diego Hernandez



Mattie Budine, a senior wildlife biology major from Massachusetts, looks through the scope of her rifle at a buck while Elliot Drewery, middle, and Claire Mcatee, right, look on.

AS HOPE SAMPSON BROUGHT her day's hunt to a close, she wound her way down a steep grassy hill. Sampson and Mattie Budine, her hunting partner, hadn't seen a single deer all day. But when they reached the bottom of the hill, a spooked doe leapt through the short bunch grass and settled 60 yards away.

With calm and practiced grace, Sampson dropped her backpack and raised her rifle while resting the barrel on her pack. She was calm and took slow breaths as she aimed at the whitetail that stood broadside in front of her.

Her chance at a shot came during a weekend of hunting put together by the University of Montana Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Club. The pair were 10 miles west of Philipsburg when Sampson encountered the deer.

As she stared down the scope of her .308 rifle, she was taking part in a shrinking American culture — one which continues to be the foundation of wildlife conservation today. The club's hunting mentorship program aims to educate students about ethical hunting.

Sampson didn't shoot the doe they saw midday, and she knew she wasn't going to even before she dropped her pack. Part of hunting ethically is practice, making sure the real shot is accurate and effective.

"It's a really hard concept for some people to understand how you can love and respect a species or even an individual animal so much and still be able to take its life," Sampson said. "It's something you can't understand until you've done it."

The pair wasn't dead set on harvesting a deer on that early Saturday in November. It served as a dry run for the real deal — Sampson's mentorship hunt the following weekend.

TO HUNT OR NOT TO HUNT

Across the United States, the number of hunters is decreasing, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife data. Montana, traditionally a hot spot for elk, deer and bird hunting, is seeing a different shift. From 2012 to 2022 there was a 7% decrease in resident hunters in the state, while the number of non-resident hunters increased 44%.

Hunters and anglers contribute heavily to conserving wildlife and fisheries through excise taxes and license sales.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the population of hunters nationwide has decreased by around 2% of the U.S. population since 1991.

"I think we are all trying to see if that is a trend that extends on," Libby Metcalf, the associate dean of the Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, said. "It could be



Claire Mcatee, a junior from Clemson, South Carolina, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers President helps pull a buck's hide aside. Mattie Budine, center, guts the buck that she had shot minutes before on Nov. 16 in a hunting ground outside of Philipsburg.

a full stop reversal of declining trends, or it could be just a random blip."

The next Fish and Wildlife survey in 2027 may help determine whether declining hunters is a serious concern.

"To be clear, that's not where we are at in Montana," said Greg Lemon, the division administrator for communication and education at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

While Montana isn't suffering from revenue or overall hunter loss because of the increase of out-of-state hunters, the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers club continues to teach ethical and sustainable practices in its chapters across the nation.

Last year, license sales in Montana made up 59% of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks budget, totaling over \$92 million. These funds also come from the 1937 Pittman Robertson Act, which established a tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. The FWP received \$29 million from these taxes, making up 18% of the budget.

DOVE FIELDS

Growing up in Pennsylvania, dove hunting with her father was one of Sampson's favorite pastimes, often retrieving the doves he shot. But sometimes the doves were still alive, and Sampson would bring them back for her father to kill.

"Eventually we got to this point where I would bring it back and my dad would be like 'No, you have to do this, you have to kill this animal,' and so it was kind of this natural progression," Sampson said.

Handling the doves helped Sampson develop a love of the animals.

"When you get up close, they've got this beautiful pink sheen on their breast and the sweetest, loving, little beady eyes," Sampson said. "I have such an appreciation and love for that species, and the individual dove, but I also know it means so much for me to take that animal's life, and then it fuels me."

Sampson wasn't always excited to hunt, though, and she recognizes hunting isn't

something everyone understands.

In the years since those childhood trips, she found herself drifting away from hunting.

"Hunting is not something you can be pressured into liking, you really have to come to it yourself," Sampson said, "I initially hated deer hunting, because it's really boring because you get up and wait in a tree stand and wait for the deer to come."

As a senior studying environmental science and geography, she has come to realize that hunting in Montana is different from in Pennsylvania. Instead of sitting in a tree for long hours, Sampson found herself using a spot and stalk method — a different hunting technique used in Montana's fields and forests. Several of her friends at the University were into hunting as well, and she realized that for many folks in Montana, it is a way of life.

"I started coming back to it on my own terms," Sampson said.

Part of those terms is a greater responsibility to the hunt. Growing up



Claire Mcatee, Mattie Budine and Elliot Drewery look out over the rolling hills outside of Phillipsburg, Montana, in the early morning on Nov. 16. They looked for deer crossing over from private property onto public hunting grounds.

hunting with her dad, she didn't plan as much, and it wasn't always her own experience. She wanted to feel the weight of that responsibility by taking the time to build up her confidence to shoot, stalk and plan the hunt herself.

Sampson also wanted more experience in the field. The weekend before her practice hunt with Budine, she went out with friends just to spend time outdoors, and not necessarily to kill a deer.

"It just reminded me exactly of the way I grew to love being outside," Sampson said. "It's in a way that's not super intense. I'm not really stressed about anything, I'm just outside looking for clues."

DIFFERENT FIELDS, SAME GAME

Her roommate and mentor, Budine, knew exactly how Sampson felt. Just a few years earlier, Budine had been the observer and mentee.

Budine, a senior, grew up in Massachusetts in a non-hunting family and now studies wildlife biology. She also runs the University's Wildlife Society chapter.

Her mentor, Nicole Bealer, helped her to get her first buck. Since then, she has stayed involved in the University's hunting and angling club and its close-knit community.

"I think it brings a lot of people together and shares good values," Budine said.

Another mentee of Bealer's is the current club president. Claire Mcatee is from Clemson, South Carolina and studies wildlife biology.

Like Sampson, Mcatee gained experience through dove hunting with her father and sister. She watched popular hunting media like

Meateater, and it made her want to become more hardcore in her hunting.

"I can grow up and be rich and famous and all that's great, but I really just want to be a badass," Mcatee said.

As a freshman in the club, Mcatee helped pack out a bull elk shot by a mentor-mentee duo. Snow and sleet, rough terrain, and the weight of the large elk on their backs made the experience tough.

"It was an absolute shit experience, physically, mentally, emotionally — it sucked," Mcatee said, "I got back in the car at the trailhead, and I was like, 'that was so much fun' like the perfect example of type-two fun."

The day after, she and Bealer went out again and Mcatee shot her first whitetail doe. From then on, Mcatee knew she wanted more.

"To me, this is the most badass thing I can do," Mcatee said.

Now, as president of UM's chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Mcatee reviews mentee applications, coordinates with mentors on who will take who out and helps run a range day to get students familiar with their rifles.

"The goal of the program has always been to identify the barriers that keep people from learning to hunt or continue to hunt, and breaking down those barriers, so there's no excuse," Mcatee said.

WHERE IT ALL STARTED

One of those barriers is creating an open space for people to learn to hunt and socialize with other hunters. This is largely what James Goerz sought to create when he started the program 10 years ago.

After getting out of the Marines in 2010, he



Mattie Budine drags the buck she shot and gutted on Nov. 16.

chose to study wildlife biology at UM. Often hunting with friends from his wildlife biology courses, Goerz found himself frequently taking out many folks inexperienced in the sport.

"It was just friends teaching friends," Goerz said.

Ten years after it started, it still has the same spirit. Aspiring hunters are paired with more experienced peers and alumni who guide them in their quest to fill their hunting tag. Non-shooting observers — who aren't sure if they are ready to hunt but want to join in the experience — are also sometimes assigned to the pairs.

Goerz views hunting as an important

education tool for teaching students about public lands and wildlife.

"It gives you a hands-on perspective on what it means to manage a resource," Goerz said.

Goerz hopes to share a part of Montana culture with students in the short few years they spend at UM. He jokes about "brainwashing them, but in a good way," and teaching interested students the ethical responsibility hunters have to the resource and the land.

"When they go back to Massachusetts or to Texas or to California, I'd like them to take that part of Montana with them," Goerz said.



Mattie Budine, left, and Hope Sampson, right, stand at the cross section of several old logging roads near Philipsburg, Montana. The duo scopes out a hillside meadow for deer. Hours later, near the same hillside, they would come across the only deer they saw that day. **RILEY COMSTOCK | MONTANA KAIMIN**

THE BIG PICTURE

The R3 movement is perhaps the biggest example of efforts to increase hunting participation. It focuses on recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters.

While trends have shifted over the last four years — with a spike in outdoor recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic — people with a stake in hunting still worry about its longevity.

“When hunting was declining it was kind of paired with the sort out migration of rural areas to more urban centers, so we can think of demographic shifts as one of factors that may have led to a decline in hunters,” Metcalf said.

Metcalf studies recreation trends, oftentimes women in hunting, and barriers of entry to folks who want to hunt.

She points to studies across the last 20 years that depict a cultural shift in how people engage in the outdoors, largely due to technology, but with a multitude of factors influencing them.

“Between the demographics, between some of this technology, between a loss of connection to some of these rural areas, I think this created this great shift away from

outdoor based activities in general,” Metcalf said.

Mcatee also has anxieties about hunting’s future. “I’m worried about losing the culture associated with hunting, being down to earth, being willing to be uncomfortable and sacrifice, to feed yourself and your family,” Mcatee said.

Mcatee thinks some people are unhappy with R3 because they think there are already too many hunters. But she thinks hunting culture is deeply important to American culture, and that could disappear as more people choose indoor activities.

“A lot of hunting is through mentorship, so if you don’t continue the mentorship and there’s a gap, then what are we gonna do?” Mcatee said.

BACK ON THE HUNT

A week after their hunt near Philipsburg, Sampson and Budine were out again, looking to fill their tags. This time, Sampson was with her mentor, Nicole Bealer, and an observer. Budine was out with Mcatee and Montana State University’s Backcountry Hunters and Angler’s President Elliott Drewery.

Walking down a closed road in the predawn

light, Budine, Mcatee and Drewery found a trio of deer. The hunters knew they were in luck. The deer advanced over the ridge, out of sight.

Budine moved down the road and set up the shot. Drewery sat next to her to help advise.

Even though she could’ve made the shot, it didn’t feel safe. The buck was standing on the ridgeline. If Budine missed the shot, the bullet would go off over the ridge, and could hit other hunters or animals. They could get a better shot if they were patient.

Their game of cat and mouse lasted for nearly two hours, stalking the deer through deadfall of tree limbs and branches. Finally, a clean shot in the dense woods presented itself. Drewery extended his arm against a tree, and Budine shouldered her rifle, resting it on his arm.

Budine’s shot rang out over the ridge. The 80-yard shot was perfect. Budine had ensured a quick, humane death for the deer.

The trio soon went to work on gutting the deer. They decided they would take out the organs and drag it out whole.

They moved fast. As blood pooled in the body cavity, Budine reached in and pulled out the heart. She could see where her bullet pierced the organ.

After washing their hands off, they tied the

antlers to a stick and dragged the buck half a mile to Drewery’s car.

As Budine arrived back to the cabin with her deer on the roof of Drewery’s Subaru Crosstrek, Sampson and Bealer were still out in the field. Just as they were ready to take a break, they discovered a fresh set of tracks.

Excited, they followed the prints to a small buck and several does.

For the next four hours they moved carefully and slowly, leery of spooking the deer. They crawled on their stomachs through the fresh snow to get closer.

The terrain was rough. Dense trees and deadfall made it difficult for the hunters to get a clear sight line to the deer. A clean shot was something Sampson knew she wanted above all else, something she felt responsible for. On top of the difficult terrain, the recent snow and below freezing temperatures made the experience all the more intense. Sampson’s pants were so wet they began to freeze in the cold air.

Finally, the deer bedded down. But to Sampson’s frustration, her intended target — the large buck — chose to lie behind a tree.

Sampson had to wait for nearly an hour for the buck to move from behind the tree before she could take the shot. As the minutes dragged on, Sampson grew restless, uncomfortable from laying in the snow.

“[Sampson], do you even want to shoot a deer today?” Bealer jokingly asked. But Sampson wasn’t ready to give up.

The larger buck finally stood up from behind the tree. It was time for Sampson to put months of preparation to the test. She stared down the scope and gave herself one last moment to double-check the shot.

But the buck moved further into the dense woods, making a clean shot uncertain. Sampson felt defeated.

Almost as quickly as she lost that opportunity, however, another deer popped up just 20 yards down slope — the original one the pair had been tracking. Sampson quickly readjusted her position and scoped in. Bealer yelled for the buck’s attention. The deer turned to look.

Sampson took the shot. The buck fell. Her season was complete.

The responsibility toward the hunt and the ethical shot Sampson wanted to make had been fulfilled. “It was such a gratifying experience. I didn’t know how happy I would feel,” Sampson said.

Sampson isn’t sure where she’ll go after graduating or what job she’ll be able to get. But she knows she wants to continue hunting.

During her time in the club, she heard mentors like Mcatee talk about how “it’s just easier to not hunt than it is to hunt.” Sampson understands that notion, but she’s found herself already trying to get back out to the field, no matter where she ends up in the future.

Like so many hunters who had come before, Sampson was choosing the hard route.

One month later: A post-election reflection

ELLE DANIEL
elle.daniel@umontana.edu

For some, Donald Trump's reelection was a victory, for others, a devastating blow and for most, a moment of reflection.

Since then, Trump has begun to lay the groundwork for the next four years including picking some of his cabinet nominations. Among a campus and an entire country grappling with the future, two University of Montana students on opposite sides of the political divide shared their feelings post-election.

The night of Election Day, junior economics student Elsie Danyo turned off the news early and called it a night. But the next morning, the news broke that Trump won the presidency with 312 electoral college votes, defeating Harris by 86.

For Danyo, Trump's win at the polls was a surprising one. The 19-year-old from Missoula described herself as a "libertarian conservative." She said she believes "you can do what you want to do, as long as it doesn't affect people, it doesn't affect children ... it isn't infringing on my rights."

Danyo braced herself for Trump to lose, especially after his defeat in 2020. "I thought we were gonna lose big time," she said. "Everyone got their hopes up in the last election. I didn't want that to happen again." Election predictions guessed it would be a close election, won by only a few points.

When she arrived at her American government class that day, she said there were a range of emotions.

"[My classmates] looked really rough, and I was very peaceful," she said.

But the opinions of her classmates shocked her. Many of them, Danyo said, expressed they couldn't be friends with someone who had voted for Trump.

"That was kind of a shock to me, because you're talking about someone's grandma, a fresh 18-year-old, someone who's maybe an innocent little Christian," Danyo said. "You're just categorizing them based on who they voted for ... The people who say they're the most tolerant are actually so intolerant."

While Danyo went to class, others like Gabbi Claxton chose to spend the day with friends. Claxton, a double major in environmental studies and women's, gender and sexuality studies, serves as co-director for UM's Gender Equity Resource Center.

Claxton, who described herself as left leaning and voted for Harris, said they were empowered to see a woman on the ballot. They watched the election results on the



A woman receives her ballot from a precinct worker during election day in Missoula.

RACHEL YEAGER | MONTANA KAIMIN

news by herself and woke up feeling "really depleted and really defeated."

They gathered their friends to hangout, have tea and talk about the future. "It was really nice to have a sense of community," they said. "You know, people are going to rally together regardless."

Claxton wasn't surprised to see Montana, a traditionally red state, vote for Trump. However, they were disappointed when their home state and swing state, Michigan, turned red.

A swing state is a state where voters equally favor both candidates and could "swing" in either direction in an election. They are typically key for gaining votes in the electoral college. In 2020, Michigan voted majority in favor of Joe Biden, but in 2024 it "swung" red for Trump.

"I had faith in my state to pull through, and it just didn't, which is hard to face," Claxton said.

While Claxton had no classes the day after the election, they did have some later in the week. Those initial lessons were "uncomfortable," Claxton said, because of a mix of political opinions about reproductive rights which Claxton supports.

"Having these conversations in the classes and people feeling like they had won the rights to other people's rights was really hard," they said. "That is directly oppositional to the side that I'm on ... I know some people vote for the economy and for job purposes and inflation ... but seeing people vote right for the specific reason of people's rights was hard to interact with."

The Gender Equity Resource Center, which organized movie nights for students trying to get away from election anxiety, saw an influx of calls and emails asking about available resources and safe spaces post-election, according to Claxton. The resource center is working to strengthen its relationships with the Associated Students of the University of Montana, the Curry Health Center and the Student Advocacy Resource Center in order to pool their resources, should they have to.

Going forward, Claxton said they're going to lean into friendships and communities. They said they're a big advocate for self-care and have been doing yoga and drinking their favorite tea to keep their spirits up.

Claxton and Danyo are both keeping potential future Trump policies in mind.

Danyo is pleased with Trump's proposed plan to abolish the Department of Education. "I don't think the government should have such a big role in public education ... I think public education is a little out of hand right now," she said.

Danyo attended a private Christian school growing up. She said she believes state governments should be more involved than the federal government and that parents of students should have more of a say.

"We have things taught in public schools nowadays that I don't think are necessary ... like transgenderism, race, sex, everything, and you cut out things like Christianity," she said.

Gender, sexuality and religion have been hot topics in politics leading up to the

election. Multiple states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana and Iowa passed bills in 2023 censoring sexuality studies in public schools, dubbed "Don't Say Gay" bills. In 2024, Louisiana required the Ten Commandments to be posted in public schools.

But Danyo said schools shouldn't just teach Christian-Judeo values. "You should be teaching them math, science, history — those religious things tie into those things — but you shouldn't teach these kids an ideology."

Claxton said they're concerned about Trump's recent Cabinet nominations. "He seems to be surrounding himself with people that are going to agree with him in some sense ... which is concerning because then I feel like there's not a fair fight to not let these things happen," they said.

Trump nominated Matt Gaetz for attorney general, but after accusations of statutory rape, Gaetz withdrew. Trump also nominated Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who endorsed Trump after dropping from his own presidential campaign, for commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. Trump's previous commissioner for the FDA, Scott Gottlieb, said Kennedy's plans would "cost lives in this country."

Other policies, like Trump's ideas to get rid of Biden administration regulations on carbon emissions and fossil fuels, caught Claxton's eye. "I'm a bit concerned about the prospects of environmental jobs," they said. "I'm trying not to catastrophize, because we're not there yet."

A nonbinary family member who feared for their safety and ability to access gender-affirming healthcare asked Claxton if they would move out of the country together in the future, but Claxton is hesitant to leave.

"I feel like there is still an element of social responsibility to do what I can while I'm here," they said.

Despite differing perspectives, Claxton and Danyo both said they believe in civil conversation.

"I think it's important to come to a common ground and kind of understand each other," Claxton said. "I feel like there's a level of empathy that can be maintained on both ends."

Danyo said she likes the idea of talking to people who hold opposing political beliefs on an individualistic level.

"We both have different values, and that's alright," she said. "It doesn't mean that we have to change each other, but we can coexist."

She added, "It's more that you listen to what they have to say and that you show a level of connection."

From losses to triumphs: Inside the mind of one of UM's winningest programs

MAXWELL JOHNSON

Maxwell3.Johnson@umontana.edu

In the last seven years that Chis Citowicki has been the head coach of Griz soccer the team has won seven Big Sky championships spread across the regular and postseason.

That has given the team a big target on its back and even bigger expectations that require absolute focus in every aspect of the game to overcome with this year's Big Sky Playoffs at home as the top seed being no different.

To counteract this pressure, the coaching staff teaches concepts like head, heart and ability, and how to professionally take control and develop those aspects.

Citowicki notably wears a heart rate monitor on his wrist during games, which helps him monitor the head and heart aspects of his coaching and project calmness onto his players.

According to Melanie McGrath, a professor in UM's School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training, scientifically speaking, players and coaches are attempting to control their arousal, which is how the body prepares itself when experiencing stress. A certain amount of arousal is positive, but too much can tighten muscles, quicken heart rates and narrow peripheral vision. The trick is for every athlete to find the pocket of arousal where they perform best and how to

stay in it, which could be as simple as taking a break when they've gone above that pocket or involve more advanced individualistic solutions.

Another member of the School of Integrative Physiology and Athletic Training, Charles Palmer, works as the faculty athletic representative, advocating for athletes' well being and working "pro-bono" with Griz athletes to find individual solutions, most of which revolve around limiting stress to prevent or help recovery from injury.

Citowicki encourages athletes to take their own journey in learning this process on and off the field. In practice, this entails players learning how to execute and perform in increasingly high pressure situations as they progress in college. A freshman should learn how to execute in practice, then as a sophomore in the regular season, a junior in the Big Sky playoffs, a senior in the NCAA tournament and a graduate in the rest of their life.

Due to injuries in the forward core this year, some younger players were expedited through that process. According to Citowicki, they may have had to make a few mistakes before being ready to take the next step.

Thus with 90 minutes done and the Griz heading to overtime in the Nov. 8 Big Sky Conference semifinals against California State University, Sacramento, the score sat at 0-0.

On the flip side, Citowicki praised the

team for forcing him to make tough decisions and gunning for starting positions all the way to the final game. Every member of the practice squad trained with the intent of starting in the playoffs and even injured players did everything they could to advise players who stepped into their position.

However despite the collective hunger and the team cleat's flooring the gas pedal of the Griz wagon the semifinal score still sat at 0-0. After 20 minutes of overtime, the fundamentally team game that is soccer, transformed into a one goalie versus one player contest in the form of a shootout with the fate of both teams seasons on the line

The Griz took an early lead in the shootout but ultimately stood a penalty kick behind with one round remaining. A stutter step move from Chloe Seelhoff kept the Griz hopes alive, forcing Sacramento State's Sydney Sharts to step up with the game on her cleats. With the confidence of a striker, the defender notched one inch past undefeated Griz goalie Bayliss Flynn's gloves, ending UM's season.

It marked the third straight campaign in which UM fell by a single kick in the Big Sky semifinals, despite being the undefeated top seed the last two seasons. McGrath explained that in high levels of soccer the parity is such that games often come down to intangible mental aspects with Sacramento State just having something special as shown by

ultimately winning the championship and all three playoff games in shootouts.

Captain Ally Henrikson reflected that the team may have become so tunnel visioned on winning that it caused them to lose some of their identity and patience.

"I was up there [during the shootout] you pick your corner, you shoot it and she saved it. I'm not going to obsess over it," senior midfielder Bella O'Brien said.

The team doesn't obsess, but it does use losses like this as fuel, as was demonstrated when after losing last year's playoffs to Northern Arizona. The Griz shut them out 2-0 this season.

Ultimately, however, as hungry as the team might be for a rematch, the best approach can often be to take what is generally a two week break from the game in order to process the loss and make sure athletes are supported. If they feel compelled, Palmer believes, the ideal time to address specific mental issues is in the offseason.

Despite the bitter final, Citowicki complimented the group's buy-in and no quit attitude in the face of injuries and adversity.

"I would bet most other programs in the country, if they lost their starting goalkeeper, their starting forward, wing, midfielder, [and] outside back, they would just be like, 'Well this year is done for,'" Citowicki said. "Well, here's our [Big Sky] trophy right here. We didn't stop."



Chloe Seelhoff tries to go around Sacramento State defender with the ball in semifinal Big Sky Championship game on Nov. 8. **MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Chloe Seelhoff, midfielder for the University of Montana soccer team, kicks the ball away from the defenders around her in the Big Sky Championship Semifinal game on Nov. 8.

MARC ANTHONY MARTINEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

Bridging the mother-daughter political divide

GRACE SIMONICH

grace.simonich@umontana.edu

In today's polarized political climate, conversations across ideological divides are often fraught, especially within families.

For Melissa Dettlint, 51, and her daughter Jillian Griggs, 19, politics represent a deep well of disagreement — but also an opportunity to understand one another better. Their relationship reflects a broader struggle faced by many families: how to navigate political differences while preserving familial bonds.

Griggs, a University of Montana student majoring in environmental studies, charts a different political course from her mother. By middle school, she had embraced

liberal values, driven by her passion for environmentalism, social justice and LGBTQ+ rights.

"I've been more liberal than my mom since seventh grade," she said. Her activism began early, attending protests and engaging in grassroots efforts to address systemic inequalities.

Dettlint, a healthcare professional with over two decades of experience in the field, described herself as "a little Democrat and a lot Republican." While her political alignment leans conservative, she often finds herself at odds with the party's broader platform.

"They don't truly prioritize the people," she said, emphasizing issues like integrity, economic equality and women's rights.

Despite her Republican leanings, Dettlint supports reproductive rights and advocates for accessible healthcare, shaped by her firsthand experience in nursing.

The mother-daughter duo often clashes over politics. Griggs criticizes what she sees as a lack of depth in her mom's political decisions, particularly when influenced by personal relationships.

"She bases her views on who she's dating," Griggs said. "It's frustrating because she cares about affordability, but her votes don't align with those priorities."

Dettlint said her political engagement fluctuates based on her personal life but defends her approach. "I form my own opinions based on experience," she said. Her skepticism of both parties stems from a belief that politics are driven more by personality than policy.

Their generational divide plays a key role in shaping their per-

spectives. Dettlint recalled growing up during the Cold War, a period that deeply influenced Baby Boomers with its pervasive fear of nuclear conflict and the need for preparedness. This era instilled a sense of caution and skepticism about global stability.

For Griggs, school shootings define her generational fear, shaping her strong stance on gun control and mental health reform. Both women's concerns reflect the distinct anxieties that have shaped their formative years and political priorities.

While political discussions can be contentious, both agree on the importance of open dialogue. Dettlint values respectful exchanges, emphasizing the need to listen without judgment. "Everyone has the right to form their own opinions," she said. "If you don't push your beliefs on me, we can coexist."

Griggs though, often exasperated by her mom's political stance, has learned to pick her battles. "I can't control her," she said, "but when politics come up, it's hard not to get irritated." She acknowledged the need to step back during heated debates, focusing on preserving their relationship over proving a point.

Recent discussions around Project 2025, a controversial conservative policy agenda, highlighted their differences. "You're insane, Mom! What about the environment?" Griggs recalled saying during an argument. Despite these clashes, their bond remains intact, grounded in mutual respect and shared family values.

Outside the political arena, Dettlint and Griggs enjoy a relationship more akin to friendship. "She's my friend more than my mother," Griggs said. Growing up as the youngest sibling, Griggs experienced a more relaxed parenting style compared to her older siblings. "She wasn't strict with me," Griggs said.

Dettlint sees this approach as fostering independence. "I want my kids to think for themselves," she said. "Even if we disagree, I respect their right to their beliefs."

For Dettlint and Griggs, the key to maintaining their relationship lies in prioritizing love and mutual respect. As Griggs put it, "At the end of the day, family is more important than political alignment."



CONTRIBUTED | JILILAN GRIGGS



CONTRIBUTED | JILILAN GRIGGS

**ASUM Legal provides
free legal services to
students like you!**

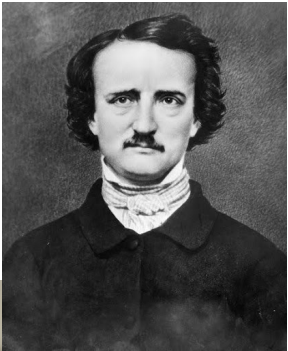
**See us Monday through
Thursday from 9:30 - 3 in UC,
#116 depending on availability
or call 406-243-6213 to
schedule an appointment.**

scan here to learn more:

UM's celebrity lookalikes

GRACE SIMONICH
grace.simonich@umontana.edu

Recently, celebrity lookalike competitions have popped up across the nation, with people winning prizes based on their similarities to celebrities such as Timothée Chalamet, Jeremy Allen White and Glen Powell. If the University of Montana held one, here are some students who think they might have a shot at victory. From mustaches to hair color, these students share their experiences of being told they have a celebrity doppelganger and how they feel about the comparison.



Pippin Bridgeman, 20, kneels on a wall for a portrait inspired by Shelly Duvall on Nov. 20. **DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Zachery Craig, a 21-year-old social studies and secondary education major, leans against a pillar, recreating a famous Ed Sheeran pose, on Nov. 24. **DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Dameon Bauwens, a 20-year-old psychology major, says that people tell him he looks like Edgar Allen Poe. He stands for an editorial portrait inspired by his lookalike on Nov. 20. **DIEGO HERNANDEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Name: Pippin Bridgeman
Age: 20
Major: Business management
Celebrity: Shelly Duvall
“People say I look like Shelly Duvall because of my big eyes and mouth. When she died a few months ago, I would just get texts from people sending me the posts, so yeah, I just kinda went with it.”

Name: Zachery Craig
Age: 21
Major: Social studies and secondary education
Celebrity: Ed Sheeran
“I play guitar like Ed Sheeran, but other than that, I guess we’re just both gingers with shaggy hair.”

Name: Dameon Bauwens
Age: 20
Major: Psychology
Celebrity: Edgar Allen Poe
“I’ve gotten Edgar Allen Poe before. Maybe it’s just because I have a mustache?”

Giving thanks at the UC

JAMES BENTON

james.benton@umontana.edu

The University of Montana's University Center teamed up with the UM Food Pantry last week to host Friendsgiving for students and faculty looking for a Thanksgiving meal.

The free event takes place annually to ensure that anyone who doesn't have a community to share Thanksgiving with is welcomed in for a hot meal.

The UC provided just about every staple entree of a Thanksgiving meal: turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce, potatoes and gravy, buttered rolls and salad. Many students came to share this event with their friends, filling the UC Commons with laughter and full bellies.

"I am most grateful for being able to provide this meal or opportunity for our students and the University community," said Brooke Belanger, the administration associate manager who helped put on the event.

The UM Food Pantry also used the event to inform students about their access to additional food available at the UC. This year, the pantry was able to offer students whole turkeys and even tofurkeys to take home to their friends and family.

"I am most grateful for understanding professors. I got an email today, I'm not going to fail a class," said Sam Chavez, a student at UM graduating in 2026.



TOP: The University of Montana community comes together on Nov. 26 to share a meal before the holidays begin.

BOTTOM LEFT: Hanna Carson, left, accounting associate for the UC, and Brooke Belanger, right, administration associate manager for the UC, watch the event they worked to organize.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Dale Robertson, a facility services employee at the UC, serves himself a plate of the Friendsgiving meal.

