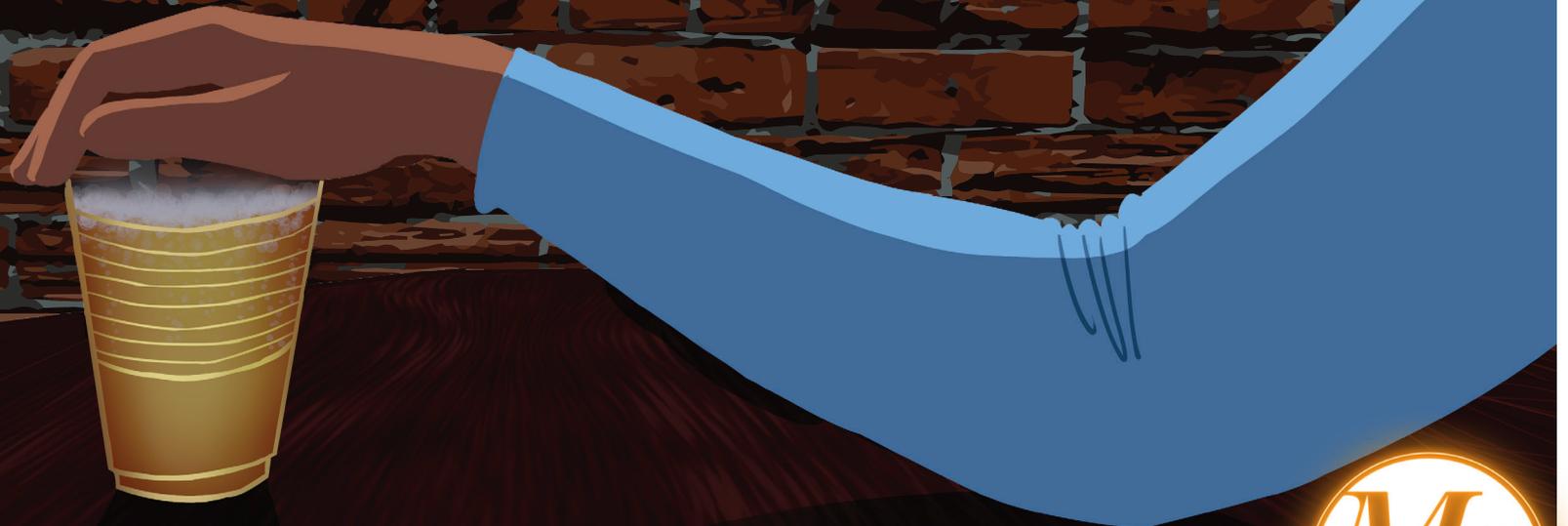


MONTANA KAIMIN

ON ALERT

STORY BY
CHRISTINE
COMPTON

SARC and UMPD raise the alarm after
increased student rooie reports



6 War-torn students

12 Juried art show

15 The chicken man



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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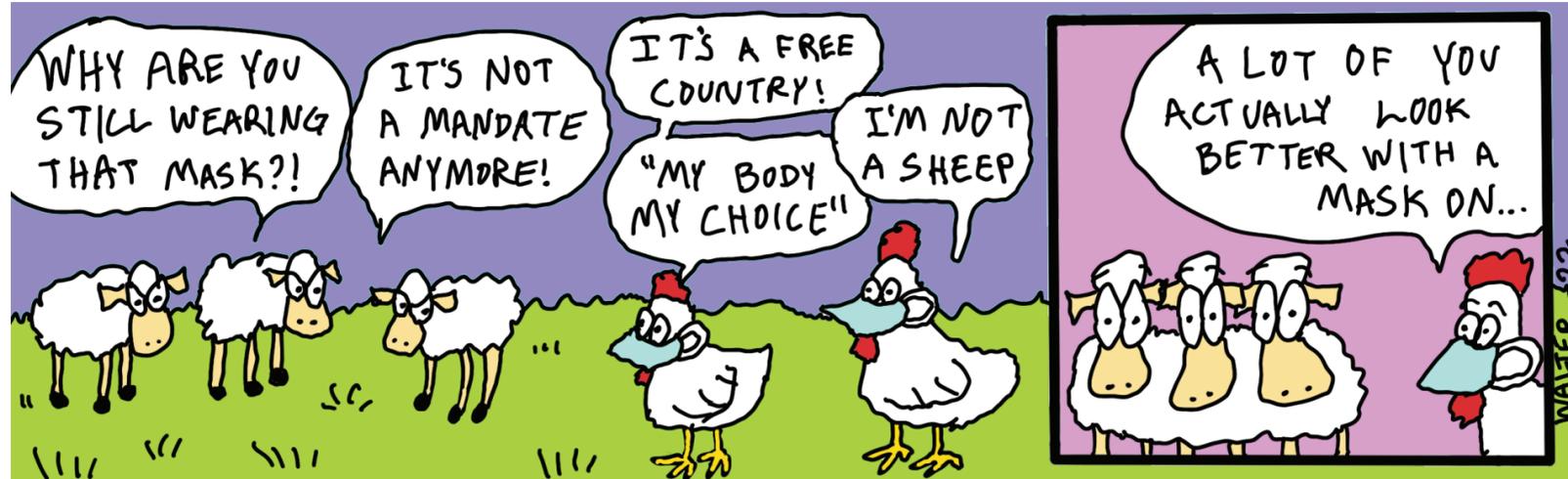
Hollywood & the War Correspondent

JRNL 383L

Meets T/R 2-3:20p

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

THE GARAGE: SE 2 EP8



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

All eyes on the Big Sky tourney



Montana's Mack Anderson hugs fellow teammate Josh Bannan at the sound of the buzzer of the Brawl of the Wild conference match at Dahlberg Arena, Feb. 27. The Griz ended its regular season at home last Saturday with a 72-71 loss against Sacramento State. Montana finished 11-9 overall (14-3 at home and 4-10 away) in the Big Sky Conference and will move on to play Weber State in the quarterfinals of the Big Sky Tournament on March 10 in Boise, Idaho. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Missoula's local journalism continues to downsize

As workers quietly removed the letters adhered to the side of the old Missoulian building on Higgins Avenue last week, Missoula continues to silently creep toward a fundamental change.

By this time next year, there will be a brand new bridge, new hotels and large condo buildings rising up over the quiet University District neighborhood.

The change has sparked plenty of conversation over what Missoula's Hip Strip will look like and to whom it will cater, but another conversation needs to happen.

The move represents a trend seen around the country – symbolizing the downsizing of a central regional newspaper, which has been critical for dialogue in a small city.

Missoula, like several cities in Montana, is experiencing unprecedented growth, and the pains are showing.

Fewer than 1% of homes across town are vacant. Apartments are getting built left and right. Old homes along the desired areas of Missoula – like the Clark Fork River – have been replaced with high-end condos.

There is no doubt Missoula will be a more expensive place to live in the next five years. But will our town's characteristics change too? With the steady stripping of local journalism, they likely will.

The Missoulian has operated at its riverfront location for decades. It covered the natural disaster of Mt. Helens, sexual assault at the University of Montana and thousands of stories that no one in Missoula today was even alive to read. It's been a part of the town since 1870, four years after the city itself was founded.

The quality of journalism produced won't be impacted by a location move. In fact, many journalists and newsrooms have remained remote after the pandemic. But we can't help but feel sad for what this move represents: Swapping a foundational newsroom for high-end condos exemplifies this tension we're seeing in Missoula.

To us, the loss is symbolic of less local engagement in the things that make the Garden City unique. It's indicative of a community that prioritizes capital over community engagement.

As corporate journalism monopolies like Lee Enterprises, the organization that owns nearly all the papers in Montana including the Missoulian, continue to shed staff and cut costs, we are worried for the Missoulian's future. The move is one more step in a larger downsizing journey.

In 2018, the alt-weekly Missoula Independent, sold to Lee Enterprises a year prior, shut down without notice. A vital source of community news, lost in a matter of days. Lee even made its online archives immediately inaccessible.

With the Missoulian's skeleton crew – five reporters today compared to 40 in 2000 – only so much news can be done, meaning some coverage goes to the wayside.

It is clear that the future of journalism – and most publications – will exist in the digital world only. And while online operations can be more streamlined, Lee Enterprises is cutting costs where it can, and journalism is sacrificed by that.

Like it? Hate it? Let us know!
email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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

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:

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

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Briefs: MT Rep. opposes Ukraine aid, COVID-19 cases near zero, AG investigating TikTok

GRIFFEN SMITH
griffen.smith@umontana.edu

ROSENDALE OPPOSES UKRAINE SUPPORT

Montana's lone representative made national news last week as he joined two other Congress members in opposition of sending support to Ukraine.

United States Rep. Matt Rosendale, a first-term Republican, voted against a resolution that condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine and offers U.S. military support in the region.

The resolution, passed 426 to 3 on March 2, comes as Russia's full-scale invasion has captured cities, killed civilians and created more than a million Ukrainian refugees fleeing the country.

In a response to Lee Montana Newspapers, Rosendale said he could not support the resolution to send unlimited resources to Ukraine while the U.S. struggles domestically, citing problems at the southern border and inflation.

"It is tragic to see the loss of innocent life in Eastern Europe," Rosendale said to Lee. "If the White House would have acted stronger toward our foreign adversaries over the last 14 months, today's events could have been avoided."

The U.S. has previously agreed to treaties with Ukraine, including the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in 1991, which denuclearized Ukraine in exchange for economic and military support from both the U.S. and Russia.

Reps. Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Paul Gosar of Arizona also voted against the bill.

FORESTERS BALL CANCELED

For the second year in a row, the 104th Foresters' Ball has been canceled, according to the W.A. Franke College of Forestry.

The ball, UM's premier dance, usually takes place in February. This year was scheduled for March — and outside — before the cancellation notice. An established tradition since 1915, the ball has only been canceled four times.

Most years, Schreiber Gym is transformed into a western logging town, with UM students from the forestry school building log false wooden fronts of a church, bar, prison and more.

The cancellation announcement said

pandemic challenges made it difficult to host an event like Foresters' Ball that is both true to the spirit of the ball and ensures safety for the UM community.

Aside from the COVID-related cancellations this year and last, the last time the ball was canceled happened during two years because of World War II.

UM COVID-19 CASES ALMOST ZERO

The Missoula City-County Health Department reported zero new UM-affiliated COVID-19 cases over the weekend, leaving just four active UM cases — the lowest since August 2021.

Nationwide, COVID-19 cases have continued to drop as increased immunity to the virus has snuffed out spread. Experts have reported more than 70% of America is immune to the omicron variant through a combination of vaccination and previous infections.

The drop comes after western Montana spiked under the delta and omicron variants, which killed several dozen in Missoula and caused the most number of infections throughout the pandemic.

Missoula County reported 129 total active cases Monday, with seven residents currently hospitalized. As of Monday, there has not been a COVID-19 death in the county since February.

Roughly 73% of eligible Missoula County residents have received at least one shot of the vaccine, and 63% are fully vaccinated.

MT ATTORNEY GENERAL LAUNCHES TIKTOK INVESTIGATION

Montana's attorney general is launching an investigation into the major social media app TikTok, alleging the app violates the state's Consumer Protection Act by supplying inappropriate videos into the hands of minors.

TikTok, a China-based video platform featuring personalized algorithms and A-list celebrities, has been growing rapidly since it was released in 2016 by ByteDance. More than 2 billion people worldwide use the app.

Montana's Attorney General Austin Knudsen, who sent a civil investigative demand to TikTok's American's headquarters in California, stated in the letter the company provides "endless spools of content about sex and drugs" while allowing those 13 or older to join the app.

The investigation also said the app has encouraged eating disorders and pushes extreme, depressing videos to keep users on the app longer. Similar suits have come from other state attorney generals, including Texas' Ken Paxton and California's Rob Bonta.

Knudsen demanded TikTok respond to his complaint by March 28.

Blotter

CHRISTINE COMPTON
christine.compton@umontana.edu

Between Feb. 26 and March 4, the University of Montana Police Department logged six crimes. Maybe the gorgeous weather inspired criminals to turn over a new leaf, or the repealed mask mandate made criminals nervous about escaping the law. Either way, half of the scandals were thefts — and none were bikes!

FRIDAY 2/25 - GHOST FIRE

Residents evacuated Craig Hall after smoke tripped the fire alarm at 10 p.m. Someone probably opened their door and let the smoke into the hallway, UMPD Chief Brad Giffin said. The smoke smelled like burnt popcorn, but it couldn't be traced to any individual room.

SATURDAY 2/26 - CARING CRAIG CACOPHONY

Around 1:30 a.m., an RA found a group of students screaming at each other within Craig Hall. The students had been drinking off-campus and left a friend behind, sparking heated debate about whether or not they should go back to find them. At some point, a student shoved someone. An RA broke up the brewing fight and gave them student conduct referrals.

SATURDAY 2/26 - BOTHERSOME BICYCLIST

Someone reported a bicyclist at 8 p.m. after he allegedly called the victim an obscene name while wheeling past them on the Oval. The caller chose not to specify what the name was, leaving the rest of us to fill in the blanks with our imaginations. The rude encounter was called in five minutes after the bicyclist pedaled away, and officers couldn't find him.

SUNDAY 2/27 - SELF-INCRIMINATED SNITCH

After a car crash on South Avenue and Arthur Avenue, one of the drivers sped away. The person who stayed talked to the police. But the plot thickens: Turns out, the person who stayed was responsible for the crash and lied to officers. Now, the case is closed and the liar is getting an extra charge for making the cops' jobs harder.

SUNDAY 2/27 - JUST THE KEYS

The keys were stolen from a UM golf cart's ignition at Rimini Court when the driver briefly stepped out of the vehicle. While there are mischievous kids nearby that will be getting the side eye from golf cart operators, UMPD has no suspects.

MONDAY 2/28 - CATCH THE CAMERA

Someone stole a couple thousand dollars worth of camera equipment from a car after the driver left it unattended near the Art Annex between noon and 4 p.m. The car wasn't able to be locked, and the owner doesn't have the insurance to cover their losses. UMPD has no suspects.

WEDNESDAY 3/2 - FLUTE FLOP

An unlucky student left their flute on the bus and called UMPD to find it. By the time officers tracked down the bus, the flute was long gone, likely stolen by another passenger. The crime log doesn't list the value of the instrument, but beginner flutes run between \$500-1,000. Whistle a sad tune, friends. This one hurts.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

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

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ACROSS

- 1 Stadium souvenirs
- 5 Have ___ on (claim)
- 9 Fraternity letter
- 14 Declare
- 15 Lie next to
- 16 Nobleman
- 17 Fix up
- 18 Sparkly mineral
- 19 "___, Don't Shop"
- 20 Former
- 22 Every so often
- 24 Ever and ___
- 26 River embankment
- 27 Life imitator
- 29 Company owner, e.g.
- 34 Table in chemistry class
- 36 Kate of "The Martian"
- 37 Epson product
- 38 Ripple
- 41 Strong desire
- 42 Like some traits
- 43 Put on a show
- 47 Foot the bill
- 48 Jockey's controls
- 49 Close in on
- 51 Swear words
- 55 Signs of spoilage
- 58 Went wild over
- 59 Kind of ring or swing
- 61 Translucent gem
- 62 Accustom
- 63 Plead
- 64 Salazar of TV's "Undone"
- 65 Silent performer

- 66 Rough guess
- 67 Sports award

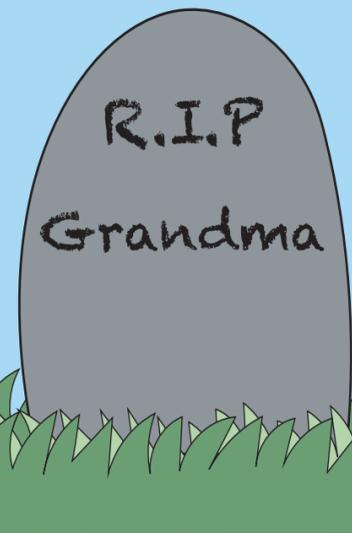
DOWN

- 1 Find fault
- 2 State positively
- 3 Bunion healer
- 4 What Beatles' fans did
- 5 Reservoir creator
- 6 Wading bird
- 7 Pastoral
- 8 Flower part
- 9 Drops off
- 10 Smooth operators
- 11 Teen's big date
- 12 Clinton's birthplace
- 13 Aardvark's fare
- 21 R2D2, e.g.
- 23 Cain raiser
- 25 Art subject
- 27 Cobbler fruit
- 28 Fred Berry role
- 30 Round Table title
- 31 Inappropriate
- 32 Field of play
- 33 Well-attired
- 35 Meddle
- 38 Took the gold
- 39 Prayer's end
- 40 YouTube upload
- 42 Bend out of shape
- 44 Kindle user
- 45 Vintage toy material
- 46 Ill will
- 50 Love to pieces
- 51 Stiffly formal
- 52 "Doctor Who" villainess, with "the"
- 53 Egg, to a biologist
- 54 Class with mats
- 56 Coarse file
- 57 Do in, as a dragon
- 60 Center of a ball?

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

How are you coping with midterms?



MCKENNA JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

CLARISE LARSON

clarise.larson@umontana.edu

Hey squad fam, you know what time it is!! It's midterm season *cries* and that means we're out here doing anything to distract ourselves from the hell we are literally paying to be in right now: college <3. We know it's a hard time — you're either studying for a midterm or recovering from the midterm you just took. Either way, we are here to let you know how it's going to go. Best wishes, bitches. XOXO

PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20): You are freaking the fuck out so badly you decided to actually take your therapist's advice and try meditating. Lol that bitch is kinda right, though, because you ended up doing really well on the test and also felt at peace for the first time in months.

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): Because you shotgunned so many Red Bulls outside of Jeanette Rankin Hall you had to leave the test early because you were literally about to piss your pants. At least you didn't actually pee like that crying Virgo 20 minutes ago.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): You illegally downloaded a copy of the textbook the night before, read three pages, said fuck it, passed out and woke up 10 minutes before your exam. RUN BITCH!!!

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): Every day you swing between "hell yeah I got this" to "oh my fucking god I'm literally gonna fail" and then you do absolutely adequate on the test.

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): You get one index card for the test and that shit is so full you can barely read it. In reality, you glanced at it twice, balled it up and 360-no-scoped that shit into the trash because it was useless and you're dropping out at the end of the semester anyway.

LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22): God damn it, you're just gonna raw dog it. No studying. NO regrets. Just good vibes, thoughts and prayers. Live, laugh, love.

VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22): No, professor, I did not spill my water on the test, it's pee. Yes, I peed. I pissed myself, I was so scared. No, don't call my mom. I'm fine, everything is fine. Yes, I'm also crying. No, I don't need to change, just give me a new copy. On another note, are there any extra credit options for the class?

LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22): Sleep is for the weak. Day three: No food, no water — on the verge of death. You're feeling confident though. You decide to take a quick power nap only to wake up to your roommate shaking you the next day because she thought you were dead. Turns out, you missed the exam and also chicken strip night. It was all for nothing.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21): You thought you had it in the bag, but lol you deadass knew nothing on the test. RIP to grandma, I guess. The midterm was 10 a.m.? Time of grandma's death: 9:59 a.m.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22): Shit, we have a midterm today? Do you have a pencil I could borrow? Oh, it's online ... Can you send me the Zoom link? Does this class have a Moodle page?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19): You're definitely the bitch who tried to form a study group and nobody showed up and now you have a dozen donuts to eat by yourself. Rage study = activated.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18): You ain't even gotta study, you fall asleep to your professor's recorded lectures and just to be safe you pop a Mint Chip Icecream Extra™ gum even though that shit is disgusting. But you chew that same gum every class, so when the time comes for the test, the answers are ingrained into your subconscious.

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So what are *you* waiting for?



UM students with ties to Russia and Ukraine fear for the future

SUSIE HAWTHORNE

susan.hawthorne@umontana.edu

Katya Bays was having her weekly dinner with her Eastern European friends when she learned life-changing news.

While the friends passed around wine and food, Bays, a University of Montana alum from Russia, received a tweet that sent a shockwave through the table. Tears, angry outcries and unanswered questions defined the evening as the family and friends of Ukrainians and Russians learned the news of Russia's Feb. 23 invasion of Ukraine.

With the world watching the first major European military action since the Cold War, UM students and Missoulians with ties to both countries fear for their loved ones halfway across the globe, and hope to convey that war will only damage their communities in the future.

Last month, Russia invaded Ukraine with tanks, airstrikes and a 40-mile-long military convoy. The fighting has killed civilians as gun fights break out near the edges of Ukrainian cities.

The invasion follows months of tension between Russia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, known as NATO.

NATO, established as a direct result of the Cold War, is a mutual defense agreement among major Western powers like the United Kingdom, France, Germany and the United States. If one NATO member country goes to war, all NATO countries go to war.

Russia and Ukraine have been connected through their similar culture, language and history, in part from the era when the two countries were the heart of the Soviet Union. As Ukraine pushed for membership into NATO, Putin claimed, "If Ukraine was to join NATO it would serve as a direct threat to the security of Russia," according to news source Al Jazeera.

Max, a 2020 University of Montana graduate, said the realities of the invasion felt much closer when he learned of the war.

"It was a fluctuation of emotions," said Max, who requested to withhold his last name to protect family in Russia. "First was denial because I couldn't believe it was happening, then it was fear for my family that is out there, and then anger and just resentment from not understanding why or how this is happening."

Max is a Canadian Russian. He grew up splitting his time between Russia and British Columbia. He recalled fond memories of his summers spent in Russia — full of traditional Russian food, adventures with cousins and trips to art museums with his grandmother.

After rereading war coverage several times,

fear set in. The fear has been consistent for Max as he checks in with family located in Moscow, Russia, and Kyiv, Ukraine.

"It is really the worst of situations for someone who [has] family in both countries because it's our brothers and sisters fighting our brothers and sisters," Max said.

Dmitri Buckheit, a sophomore in the business school, shared the same fears. Buckheit was born and spent his early childhood in an orphanage in Kyiv, Ukraine. He first read about Russia's military action in his dorm room.

"Watching this attack on my people is devastating," Buckheit said.

Buckheit, like many students, anxiously checks for updates regarding the conflict. Doomscrolling and checking news sources for updates have become part of his daily routine as he looks for reassurances that his loved ones in Ukraine are safe. He hopes his fellow Ukrainians will stay strong in this time of immense uncertainty.

UM's Global Engagement Office said it recognized the immense need for support as soon as the first Russian troop crossed the Ukrainian border. The office has been checking in with each international student, according to Marja Unkuri-Chaudhry, director of Education Abroad and Partnerships.

On March 3, the office held an event open to all international students, faculty and staff to create a safe space for the international community to discuss topics ranging from the Ukrainian war to climate change and racial tensions.

"We just have so many things that are layered on top of each other that are causing anxiety, stress and tension for our students," said Donna Anderson, executive director of the Global Engagement Office. "We wanted to provide that space to let them know that they can find support in our office and with each other during this time."

Anderson confirmed there are no current students residing or studying abroad in Ukraine. The office is monitoring the situation closely and has not heard of any countries planning to pull exchange students home. For students planning to study abroad, UM is open to modification in study abroad plans as needed.

In addition to UM's Global Engagement Office, students across campus are creating opportunities to share dialogue regarding the war. The College of Arts and Media hosted a Zoom conference call as a space for professors and alumni to share their stories, thoughts and feelings regarding the current war.

"Ukraine is really a battle ground right



ABOVE: Missoula resident Sandy Mack shows her support for the people of Ukraine caught in the middle of the ongoing Russian invasion as she protests outside the Missoula County Courthouse, Feb. 26. The protest was organized by Ukrainian and Russian American residents and other Missoulians.

RIGHT: Missoulians gather outside the steps of the Missoula County Courthouse waving signs in support and solidarity to the people of Ukraine. The invasion of Ukraine follows months of tension between Russia and members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).



ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN

now," said professor Clint Walker, an associate professor who teaches Russian language, as he acknowledged the complexity of the situation. "There are geopolitical and historical factors involved. There are factors related to identity, but the factor of language is fundamental and so much has led to this moment in history. The innocent lives lost in this whole situation is very unfortunate."

Bays, the Russian graduate, shared the popular opinion that this is not her war. Bays currently resides in Missoula, but said Russia will forever be her home.

In response to the news of the invasion, Bays pulled together Eastern Europeans living in Missoula to organize a protest outside the

Missoula County courthouse to show their support for Ukraine and their anger toward the invasion.

"This is Putin's war," Bays said. "This is not our war."

Bays' anger and frustration were echoed throughout the protest as attendees held blue and yellow signs showing messages and love for Ukraine. Like Max, Bays fears the Russian community in Missoula will be ostracized for Putin's aggression towards Ukraine.

"I wanted to organize this protest to show support for Ukraine as soon as I heard about the invasion," Bays said. "It is devastating and we are feeling helpless being so far away. I want people to know this is not what Russia wants."

Grizzly Stomp continues growing despite lack of UM space

MATTI OLSON

matti.olson@umontana.edu

The subtle click of boots on pavement created a rhythm as groups gathered at the front doors of Christ the King Catholic Church.

Students tested out their dancing shoes while the roar of upbeat country music resonated through the walls of the brick building for the University of Montana's Grizzly Stomp Swing Dance Club's weekly meeting.

With moves ranging from the table top to the can opener to the window — everyone showed off their best Saturday night dance moves.

"The culture of country swing dancing shows that we are willing to teach one another and we're not afraid of making mistakes," said club founder Cody Carlson.

Grizzly Stomp has been shaking the Missoula ground for almost five years. But after years of on-campus events, the student club now meets in an off-campus church basement, the only place they can dance during the cold months.

It's not for a lack of trying. Carlson contacted both the University Center and the Payne Family Native American Center, requesting permission to dance indoors on campus again, but was met with disappointing answers.

The club was denied from both places due to concern of the dancers' cowboy boots scuffing the polished floors. Carlson said he inquired about solutions such as cleaning the floors or covering them with mats, but was still denied.

In 2019, the club spent most nights dancing in the Payne Family Native American Center, which has hardwood floors and open space to perform their outstretching aerial moves freely.

But when the pandemic hit, dancing was shut down for months. Carlson was frustrated that his passions were taken away because of in-person interaction getting cut out.

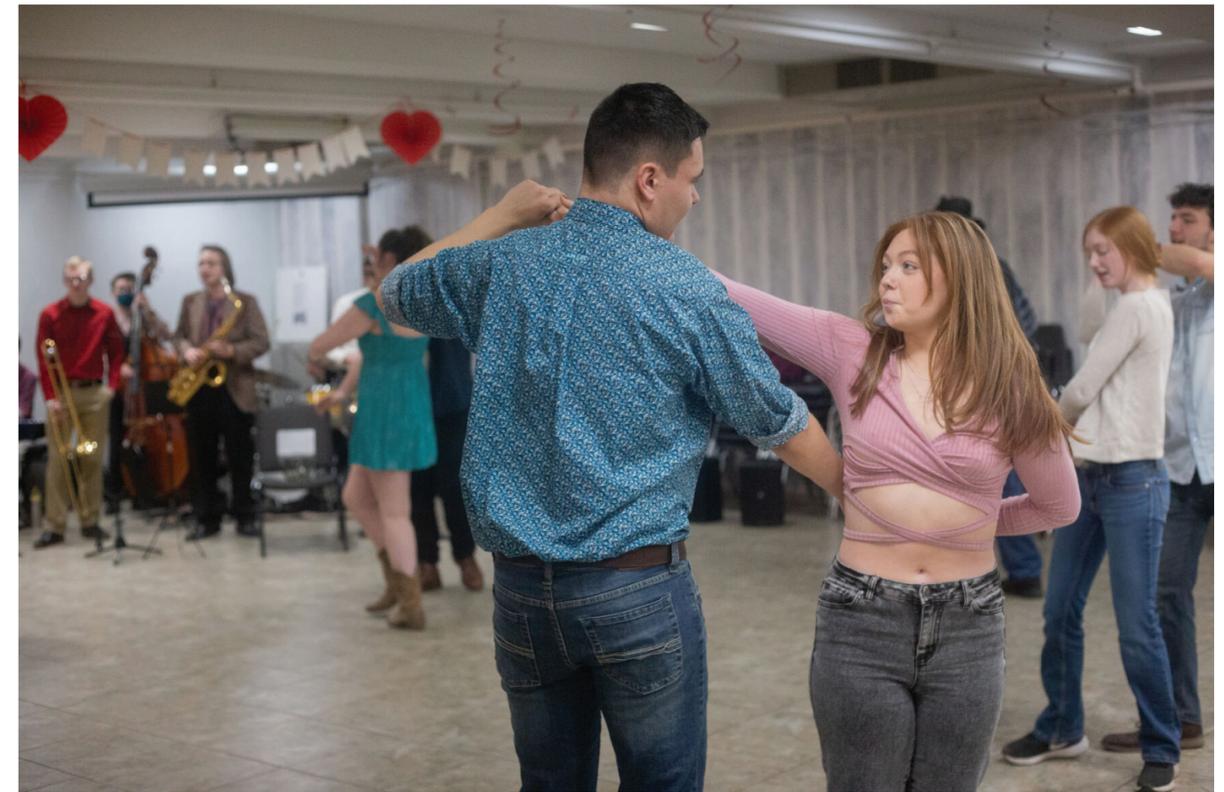
The club eventually got back together in small groups and danced outside on the Van Buren bridge.

Carlson said this is a great spot during the warm months because they had the whole bridge to dance on. But after winter set in, the club wanted to move into an indoor space.

Carlson contacted ASUM to see if there were any options for them, since the club is funded through the program. While ASUM helps fund and manage student clubs, they do not regulate UM's event spaces.

"It is up to the venues to decide who they allow to rent the spaces," said Jack Rinck, ASUM business manager.

According to the University Center Event Services, this issue of displacement has not gone unnoticed. The department was unaware of the continual movement of the club across



President of Grizzly Stomp Peyton Merideth, left, dances with UM freshman Jozlyn Baumann, right, as a live band performs jazz and swing style music for the Valentine's Day event on Feb. 12. The event was hosted by the campus swing dance club as an opportunity for students and the broader Missoula community to come and dance with the group in the Christ the King Parish church basement. ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN

campus, but when Carlson had raised concern, the department didn't have defined expectations of their renters.

"We have to follow the rules of the facilities," said UM Event Coordinator Julia Tonne. "But now that we realize that this group has been continually passed around, we're working on reconciling this."

Event Services is coordinating with the Student Life and Activities Board in order to find a solution to the displacement issue. They plan to create clearer regulations on what is expected for venues, and hope to find a space for the dancers.

Grizzly Stomp has grown fast over the last couple years, going from just Carlson and his friends to hosting more than 50 people on Saturday nights.

The stomping grizzlies hope to remake their debut in the UC Ballroom in the future, toe-tapping the nights away.

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ON ALERT

STORY BY CHRISTINE COMPTON

UMPD and SARC urge awareness after sharp rise in roofie reports

The number of students reporting being drugged around Missoula has risen over the course of this semester. On Feb. 9, a public safety email warned students about drug-facilitated assault and encouraged bystander action. As of Feb. 21, the Student Advocacy Resource Center has received 10 reports of students who had been drugged since Jan. 18. NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

THE NIGHT of Dec. 4 started off planned and practiced. Getting into the bar was easy. The bouncers come out at 10 p.m., so it was just a matter of slipping in beforehand. Lily, an underage University of Montana student, didn't even need a fake ID.

Her friends — all over 21 — were ordering drinks for her. Besides, she wasn't planning on partying too hard. Lily, who requested the Kaimin withhold her last name, was halfway through her second vodka cranberry when she set it down at her friend's table. There's two of them, she thought. They could watch her glass while she used the restroom.

When she returned, her friends had moved to the bar, and six men huddled over her original table. Her eyes darted between the two groups. She wasn't sure what to do next.

Lily shuffled to the table and asked for her drink. The men stared blankly at her. When she asked her friends about it at the bar, they said they didn't have her drink. Frustration nipped at her. She paid for her drink. She Venmoed her friend and everything.

Marching back to the table, she asked, "Alright guys, where's my drink?" Lily doesn't like making eye contact, so she didn't look long at the man who handed her the vodka cranberry. It appeared the same as she'd left it: half full, reddish pink, nothing suspicious at all, she thought. "Thanks, homie," she said and walked back to sit with her friends.

She sipped it once, twice, stood to request a song, and then — nothing. Her friends told her she suddenly dropped backwards, hitting the floor with a loud thud. Her friends thought she was drunk, Lily said. They took her home. They'd only been there an hour.

Her roommate and of-age friend, Torin Trout, said he was scared to see Lily so out of control.

"She was incoherent, more so than expected for how much I knew she had drunk," Trout said. "She could barely stand on her own."

Lily flashed in and out of consciousness for several hours, leaving long gaps in her memory. She first remembers waking up in front of the toilet at home. Her friends were trying to make her vomit, but there was nothing in her stomach. She fell asleep.

Then, she woke up in the bathtub. Her friends were running ice cold water over her. She was confused and angry that her clothes were wet. She didn't understand that her friends weren't sure if she was alive. She fell asleep.

Again, she woke up, this time as her friends were trying to get her into bed. She couldn't recognize her room or the people

she was with. She couldn't tell where the ground was. She began to scream. "I don't know who any of you are! I don't trust you," Lily remembers shouting. "Don't touch me! Don't poke me!"

When Lily next lost consciousness at midnight, she wouldn't wake until 10 a.m. She lost over 12 hours of memory.

"Do you think you were roofied?" Trout asked her. Lily wanted to laugh. Roofied? Drugged? That happens to other people, she thought.

But why else would she be incapable of remembering anything? She said she's never drunk so much she's lost her memory, and she didn't feel her usual drunk symptoms. No nausea, no lagging movement, no dizziness.

Fear curdled in Lily's stomach. She may have been drugged. And recent reports show the University of Montana is aware that it's happening more now than it has in the past.

On Feb. 9, a public safety email warned students about drug-facilitated assault, encouraging bystanders to take care of each other and survivors to speak up.

"Trust your intuition," the email said. "If you think you may have been drugged, or experienced sexual assault, reach out for help." The email was sent when the UM Police Department was informed of five students who reported being drugged between Feb. 5 and 11. As of Feb. 21, the Student Advocacy Resource Center had received 10 direct and indirect reports of students who had been drugged since Jan. 18 — five times as many as SARC usually receives in an entire semester, said the center's director, Jen Euell.

The email went out not because it's legally required, but because the numbers were so alarming. UMPD Chief Brad Giffin said his department had a responsibility to let people know they need to be on alert. And he also knows it's not likely his department or the city police force will be able to solve these crimes.

Roofies explained

Four drugs are the most common ones used in assaults: Flunitrazepam or Rohypnol (origin of the term "roofie"), gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), ketamine and alcohol added to a non- or low-alcoholic drink, according to the American Addiction Centers.

Assaulters can overpower people ingesting these substances, which is why they're called "date rape drugs." Effects depend on several factors — the type of drug, how much is used, the target's internal chemistry — but all can make someone extremely tired, confused and unable to remember the night. The drugs usually activate within a few minutes and last for several hours.

Rohypnol is a powerful tranquilizer sometimes used as sleeping medicine outside of the United States. Some generic brands of Rohypnol come in colorless, odorless and tasteless pills that easily dissolve in drinks, and a dose as low as 1 milligram can affect someone for eight hours.

GHB is a natural chemical in the brain that can be synthesized in labs. Some companies create a form to treat narcolepsy, a condition in which people feel sudden, overwhelming urges to sleep during the day. It can be found in powder and liquid, and its slightly salty taste can be masked with strong flavors.

Ketamine is a powerful medicine that puts people to sleep before surgery. In strong doses, some people report feeling disconnected from their body. It comes in liquid and powder forms easily mixed into drinks, and the bitter taste can be hard to hide.

Although not considered a drug by some, alcohol is the most common substance used when targeting people, said Alicia Arant, UM's Title IX coordinator. The American Addiction Centers says it can worsen other drugs' effects, in some cases turning a mild haze into blackout amnesia.

Over-serving alcohol without consent is also drug-facilitated assault, Arant said. Party attendees may not know the mix of alcohol in a punch bowl. Someone being handed a drink may have ordered a single shot and been given a double. Arant added peer pressure can make a person feel forced to drink.

Regardless of how the drug gets into people's systems, the bottom line is clear: If you give someone a substance without permission, you are committing assault. "They've been given a drug against their will, and it is a crime," Giffin said. "The problem is: Who's the suspect? Most people don't have a clue."

Giffin served over 25 years at the Missoula County Sheriff's Office before joining UMPD, and he knows the difficulty in investigating roofies. He's been UMPD chief since May 2021, following Chief Marty Ludemann's retirement. In his time with UMPD, he said he's rarely seen official reports of drug-facilitated assault. Because the assaults usually happen in bars off campus, like Lily's did, those reports land on someone else's desk — typically, SARC's.

Unlike official police reports, complaints handled by the Student Advocacy Resource Center are confidential and don't require investigation or evidence. But that doesn't mean UMPD officers don't learn about these reports.

Direct emails or meetings with SARC help UMPD get this information, which is then included each year in UM's Annual Campus Security and Fire Safety Report.

That’s how UMPD verified its data on rape and fondling in the last few years. Between 2018 and 2020, there were 21 cases of rape and 10 cases of fondling on campus.

The five drugging reports that inspired the safety email all came to SARC within a week. It was concerning enough that SARC reached out to UMPD immediately to get the word out.

The emails to UMPD don’t offer any details, but they get the numbers across clearly. In February, the numbers sent a clear message for Giffin: Something is up, and it needs to be addressed.

UMPD usually goes months without reports of drug-facilitated assault, Giffin said. In 2021, there were only two reports, both in September. Euell agreed and said SARC only hears one or two incidents of drug-facilitated assault per semester – if an assault is reported at all.

The city police are faring similarly. Lydia Arnold, MPD’s public information officer, said MPD hasn’t received any reports of drug-facilitated assault in months.

That doesn’t mean the assaults don’t happen.

Giffin explained drugs used by assaulters often cause intense blackouts and confusion, so survivors have a hard time remembering who attacked them. The drugs also flush out of the body within a few hours, so even identifying what drug was used can be a challenge.

Unless someone sees assaulters in action, they’re likely to get away free, Giffin said.



At the scene

At least four of the 10 reports of drug-facilitated assaults SARC received since Jan. 18 could be traced to bars in Missoula. According to the U.S. Office on Women’s Health, assaulters are most likely to use these drugs at bars, concerts and parties where alcohol is plentiful and people can get lost in the crowd.

This isn’t a shock to people who work in and frequent the bars in the college town. Most people in the industry are well aware of the dangers alcohol can bring, and plenty take measures to watch out for their fellow humans.

Anne Hancock, a manager at the Rhinoceros on Ryman Street, said she always has an eye on people from behind the bar. As a veteran bartender with 16 years of experience, Hancock is trained to watch for situations like the one Lily found herself in, and Hancock has a few stories to tell. Most are light-hearted or worth a laugh, like the time she received a call from a local dentist looking for a patron’s missing dentures. But other eventful nights have given her the skills to spot trouble before it happens.

“We’ve all been bartenders for so long,”

Hancock said. “We’re good at reading people to begin with.”

There are a few key signs Hancock looks out for. People going out of their way to talk with obvious strangers raises flags, especially if the person being spoken to looks hesitant. Their body will reel back or curl in. Hancock said that’s when you know they’re not happy with the situation.

Hancock said she has no problem directly asking if someone is uncomfortable. She said it’s important people know she’s there to help. As for the potential assaulter, Hancock said she makes it clear she’s prepared to intervene.

“I’m here,” Hancock said. “I will not let this situation get out of hand.”

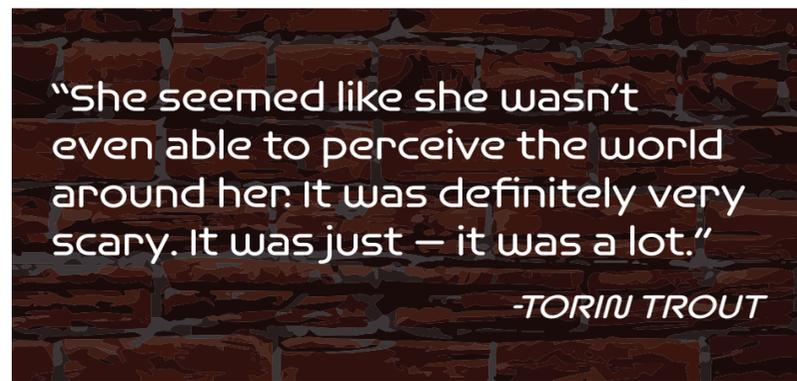
While experience is an effective teacher, Hancock remembers the Rhino staff taking a bar workshop class provided by Make Your Move! a few years ago. Make Your Move! is a team of Missoula organizations dedicated to ending relationship violence. The class taught Rhino staff members how to recognize sexually aggressive behavior and strategies to intervene.

Six other bars in Missoula have also completed the course: the Dram Shop, Imagine Nation Brewing, Ole Beck VFW Post 209, KettleHouse Brewing, Fred’s Lounge & Casino and Sunrise Saloon.

Beyond the class, local bars take multiple routes of action to keep bargoers safe.

At Red’s Bar, a printed copy of UM’s public safety email was taped up by the owner as a reminder for bartenders to stay vigilant. During the night shift, bartenders at the Rhino pull customers’ drinks out of reach when they step out for a smoke break, and napkins are readily placed on top of drinks when people are briefly distracted.

Bouncers at the Rhino and Stockman’s Bar come out at 10 p.m. to watch the doors, and employers often look for bartenders who can speak up without starting a fight. This might look like Hancock’s calm-but-direct approach. It can also look like distracting the potential assaulter and giving someone a chance to escape, Make Your Move! said in an advice column for bystanders. A bartender on the website



lied about a woman’s boyfriend arriving to help her get out of a tense situation.

Most bars also comply with police investigations if they request it. Arnold, MPD’s information officer, explained that if the police department receives a report of an assault within a bar, it will request camera footage. Usually, local bars give police access to footage. Because survivors usually can’t remember when they were drugged, officers sometimes have to pick through hours of video. An assaulter can be subtle, too. Even with the security camera’s videos, there’s no guarantee the assaulter will be caught, and the investigation may come to a close.

Bartenders and bouncers can be interviewed by police too, according to the Make Your Move! website, but there’s no guarantee they witnessed the crime. Body language can let them know something is wrong, but catching the exact moment of an assault can be a matter of luck.

Many bar employees said their first priority is keeping people safe and healthy. Some said they’re more than happy to follow guidelines or rules if it prevents assault in Missoula.

“We’ve got enough of that shit in the world,” Hancock said. “We don’t need that here.”



First line of defense

The night of Dec. 4 started off joyful. Getting into the bar was easy. Trout, Lily’s friend and roommate, had just arrived from his friend’s apartment, and he blended into the night crowd. Trout didn’t even need a fake ID. He was freshly 21, and he was excited to party like a legal adult.

He was a few drinks deep when Lily used the restroom. He planned to quickly order something from the bar, but his table was taken when he turned around. Trout shrugged at the time. It was a crowded Saturday night. It sucked, but it made sense.

Trout watched Lily return and get her drink. He minded his business until he saw her stumble. She leaned heavily against tables, he said, and was tilting every time

she stood. Strange, his alcohol-muddled brain thought. He didn’t see her have too many drinks.

Then, Lily dropped backward – twice. Even through his buzz, Trout knew that was the final straw. Trout and his friend threw Lily’s arms over their shoulders and helped her walk home, a place they shared as roommates, listening as her slurred ramblings slowed to a halt. By the time they arrived, she was dead quiet and unresponsive.

“She seemed like she wasn’t even able to perceive the world around her. It was definitely very scary. It was just,” Trout shivered. “It was a lot.”

Trout and his friend did everything they could think of: prepare for her to throw up, splash water on her face, run the shower over her. Trout was contemplating taking her to the hospital when she finally jolted awake. Relief only lasted a moment. Lily shouted nonsense at them, pleading for them to take her home as she sat in her bed. Listening to Lily’s screaming and begging, Trout realized that Lily may have been drugged.

“She had no idea where she was. She didn’t know we were in our house. She asked where her room was when she was standing in it. She was completely out of it – had no idea what was going on,” Trout said. “And at that point, we suspect maybe something happened at the bar.”

He was terrified.

Confirmation came the next morning when Lily woke up.

“One of the first indicators was that she wasn’t hungover at all, because she hadn’t drank that much alcohol,” Trout said. “When we started putting the pieces together, she was almost definitely roofied while we were there.”

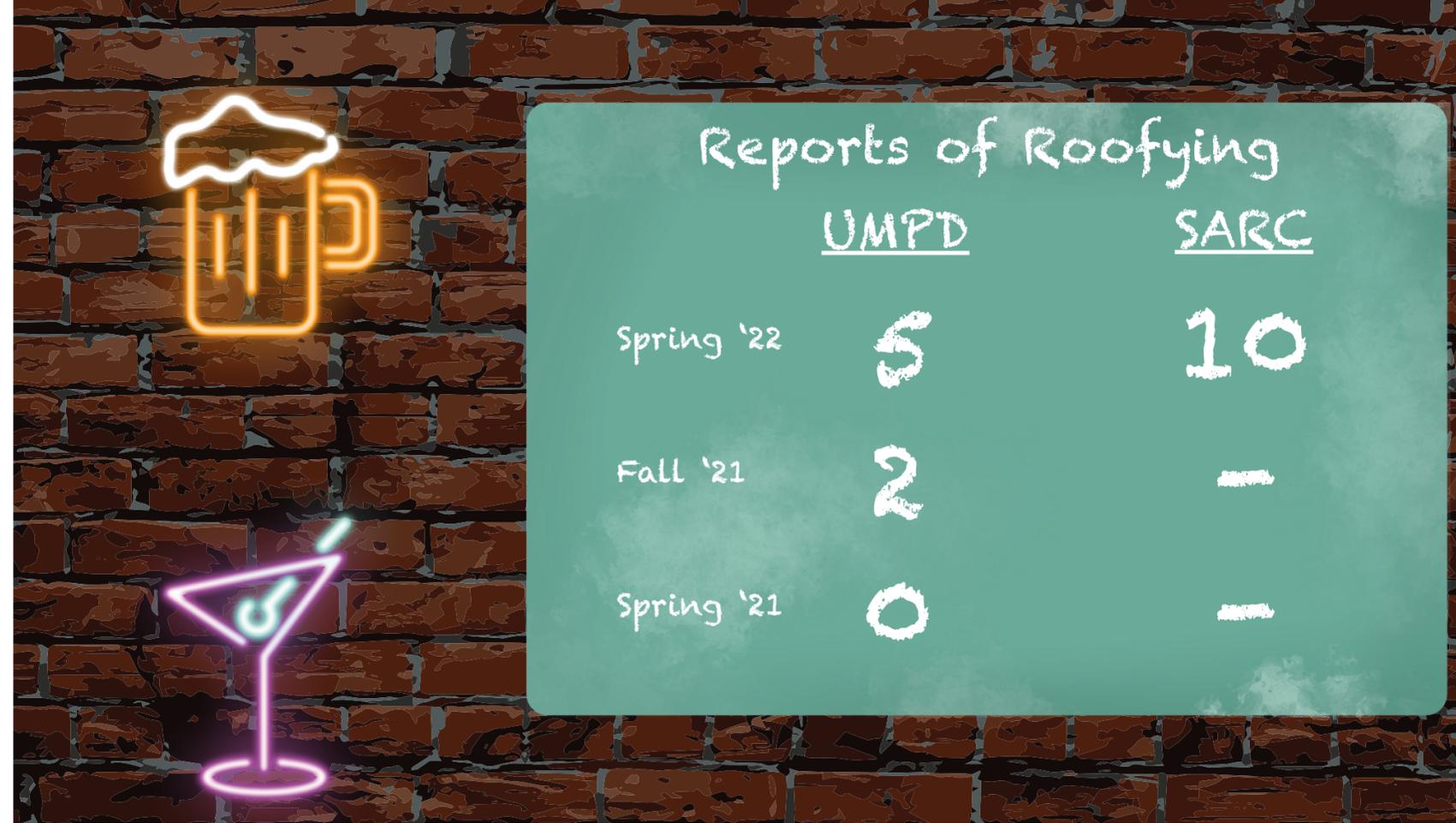
Because drug-facilitated assault tears away survivors’ control, it’s up to bystanders to help, Giffin said.

Giffin said the first step is prevention. Watch your drink. Watch the drinks of people around you. Get your drink directly from the bartender or pour it yourself. Never go out alone.

Hancock offered other advice to UM students at the bars to help keep each other safe: If you notice someone suspicious, make a note of it or tell someone. Bartenders and bouncers are your friends. If you notice a person making someone uncomfortable, intervene. It doesn’t have to be a confrontation if you don’t want it to be.

On the Make Your Move! website, bystanders told stories about how they intervened in different ways. Many were indirect and separated a potential assaulter from their target.

One bystander noticed an older man with his arm around an uncomfortable looking young woman. The bystander asked the older man about his Griz shirt and gave the woman a chance to slip away.



UMPD and SARC receive an average of one to two official reports a year, said UMPD Chief Brad Giffin and SARC Director Jen Euell. SARC does not track semester-to-semester data on drug-facilitated assault reports. MAKAYLA O’NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Another bystander pretended to be a woman’s friend to get her away from a pushy guy.

A third saw a man slip something into a woman’s drink and pretended to bump into her, quietly telling her. Meanwhile, a friend told a bouncer, who escorted the potential assaulter out of the bar.

Giffin said to pay attention to your friends and what they drink. If your friend is behaving differently than normal, ask about it. Someone who’s only had one drink shouldn’t be falling over. Don’t wait for them to bring it up first. They may not be aware they need help.

Euell, SARC’s director, said if you suspect someone has been drugged, tell an employee at the bar or a friend and drive them to the hospital. If possible, preserve the drink. Evidence is slim, and all traces of the drug will leave the body within 24 hours of ingestion.

Kyle Yoder, president of the UM Students for Sensible Drug Policy, said the drugs used by assaulters can sometimes cause allergic or overdose reactions, and someone’s life could be in danger. Even if

it seems fine, go to the hospital.

Yoder said it’s also important to say something if you suspect you’ve been drugged – even if you’re worried about being caught drinking underage.

In Montana and at UM, minors cannot be charged with illegal drinking if they have been assaulted. At UM, this is called the Medical Amnesty Policy, and it was added to UM’s policies after heavy pushing by Students for Sensible Drug Policy. It means anyone who requests medical aid for themselves or someone else won’t be charged with a drug related crime.

“It’s dangerous to not talk about the Medical Amnesty Policy,” Yoder said. “It’s literally life or death.”

The point of the law is to protect people, Giffin said. If students have been assaulted, the first priority is making sure they’re taken care of. Underage drinking shouldn’t overshadow being a victim.

Above all else, believe people when they say something is wrong, Euell said. If someone has disclosed they are a survivor of assault or suspect they have been harmed, take it seriously, even if it sounds

like a joke. Assault can be intensely traumatic – especially if the survivor feels like they are facing it alone.



The aftermath

Lily said she felt frustrated her friends didn’t take her assault seriously at first. She remembers coping with humor, making off-hand jokes to her friends, and being disappointed with their lack of reactions.

She said her male friends would laugh along, saying, “Yeah, you’re right. That is funny.”

The only two friends she remembers reacting with horror and concern were her roommates – Trout being one of them.

The more Lily looked back on it, the more betrayed she felt, Lily said.

“It does kind of suck that their first thought was, ‘Oh, she’s just really drunk,’” Lily said. She said her friends watched her wander the bar before she passed out. Lily said she wasn’t behaving anything like her usual drunk persona. “They didn’t even

consider that I was roofied.”

Lily said she still feels the effects of the assault. She grapples with guilt, replaying the evening over and over some days.

“It’s \$11. I should have just left it,” Lily said, thinking of her vodka cranberry that night. She knows she isn’t at fault, but she still sharply calls herself stupid for accepting the drink.

Months later, she is working to move past her assault. Lily said she wants to view this as a chance to become better. She said she’s more willing to stand up for herself and others, and she’s proud of her ability to intervene when her friends are in sketchy situations.

But she doesn’t step foot in bars anymore, fearing what will come if she does. In public, Lily feels hyper-aware of her surroundings, constantly watching others. When her sister goes out, Lily demands to know who she’s going with. She wishes she could relax.

“The fact that I feel at fault for it is really unfair to me, but I can’t get past that,” Lily said. “As much as I want to have fun, I want to make sure I’m safe.”

Visiting artist shares his Indigenous printmaking with UM students

JOSH MOYAR

jm144854@umconnect.umt.edu

According to Marwin Begaye, when the Navajo deities were creating man, they prayed to the cardinal directions: north, south, east and west. From each direction, a different bird appeared to the gods. The north produced the hummingbird. The shimmering lights of the Aurora Borealis stuck to the hummingbird's feathers, which explains the iridescent red and green the bird is known for.

Fifty-two-year-old Begaye uses the art of printmaking to share the stories he grew up hearing on the Navajo reservation in New Mexico.

"All the prints are in reference to my relationship with landscape and culture, especially culture stories," he said.

This past week, the University of Oklahoma professor came to UM to share his knowledge and ideas with art students as a part of MATRIX Press's Visiting Artist Program.

An artform of replication, printmaking allows Begaye to produce dozens of copies of a single piece, which then can be altered with different colors and patterns. One piece he created with students during his time at UM represented the story of the hummingbird.

The bottom of the piece is blue, reminiscent of both reflective water and the Milky Way. The deep red and yellow in the center represent the morning, leading up to a purple dawn on top, all with the incandescent hummingbird in the center, its head surrounded by a halo of light.

"I'm trying to bring these stories I grew up with into a contemporary setting," Begaye said. "That's what stories are for."

Begaye has been printmaking for 30 years now. He entered the craft while attending the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe mostly by accident.

"There was a workshop happening for these visiting Australian artists, and they literally just needed warm bodies, people to fill the seats," Begaye said. "They said, 'We'll give you lunch, just pretend you're making art.' Of course, my curiosity grew from there."

A quick look through Begaye's art portfolio would soon reveal a common theme: He likes birds. Herons, cormorants, magpies, ravens—all of these feathered creatures are featured in a variety of his prints. The reason, once again, ties to Begaye's Navajo heritage.

"Birds are the animals that can be both in the air and on the ground," he said. "They're the messengers between us and the sky. That's why feathers are so important in Navajo cultures and rituals."

Beyond the subjects of the prints, other aspects tie to Begaye's childhood. Each bird appears in front of an intricate, patterned background. Begaye said the backgrounds are meant to be reminiscent of rugs his grandmother used



LEFT: Visiting artist Marwin Begaye, 52, explains his most recent Indigenous printmaking work, which shows how he views nature and as a way to share the stories he grew up hearing from his Navajo upbringing. The magpie he's pointing to is encircled in clouds representing the climate in which they can usually be found.

BELOW: Begaye explains his ongoing printmaking work with students at UM. The birds in Begaye's artwork convey the messages from his tribe. Birds are the messengers between people and the sky, contributing to many rituals with the Navajo people.

RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN



to weave, whether that be reflected through shimmering water or endless sky.

Despite the deeply personal narrative behind each piece, Begaye doesn't dwell on them long.

"I'm always onto the next thing," he said. "If you pick out a piece you like most, you're stuck with that image—I'm too restless. Even as the students were working on these prints, I'd be in the back creating more ideas in my head. As I mix colors and see how they print, I'm thinking about the next colors and the next patterns."

Over the course of his three-day stay, Begaye and the art students created 100 prints in total. Half of the works belong to Begaye, and the other half will stay at the University with MATRIX.

MATRIX Press has been a presence in UM's art scene for more than 20 years now. Founded by the head of UM's printmaking division James Bailey in 1998, the organization has brought 24 different nationally and internationally known artists to the University.

According to Bailey, the opportunities to work with these masters of the craft is what helps the students fully understand the artform.

"Some of these students haven't done a lot of printmaking," Bailey said. "So this is a really good opportunity to immerse themselves in it with the help of an expert."

Out of those 24 artists, half have been of Indigenous heritage.

"A lot of artists I admire have been through the University of Montana," Begaye said. "It's a bit like the who's who of the Native art scene. I'm proud to finally be a part of that crew."

Printmaking is alive and well at UM, but it tends to be forgotten within the art scene, Begaye said.

"When people think art, they think painting and sculpture," he said. "Prints fall through the cracks. It's not a singular, one-and-done thing. Prints work with multiples ... and sometimes because of that those pieces are seen as lesser."

However, that doesn't stop Begaye from stressing its importance.

"A lot of cultures have used printmaking to contend information," he said. "It's for spreading the revolution and underground books. It's a very democratic art form. Comparing painting to printmaking is like a person using a fax machine to send a message compared to using social media. Printmaking is the social media of the art world. It's for everyone."

Begaye's favorite part of working with MATRIX, as well as teaching at his university, is sharing printmaking's importance with the students.

"At their age, they're still floating. They aren't tethered to a narrative, and that gives them a chance to develop their own—to find their own stories. I love being in the room when they do," he said.

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SCAN ME




UC exhibit 'Not the World We Used to Know' showcases change

HALEY YARBOROUGH

haley.yarborough@umontana.edu

A sculpture of a prosthetic leg. A charcoal drawing of a raccoon with goat legs. A box of needles with bottles of estrogen hanging from each side. These pieces are an interpretation of change through time, an exploration of before-and-after, large-scale and personal events showcased in the University Center Gallery's new exhibit "Not the World We Used to Know."

"I didn't just want it to be art about COVID, that would be a pretty depressing show," said Amanda Barr, the UC Gallery's director. "So I used the framework of what COVID caused, the world really changed in a big way. But also, things change all the time for people. We graduate. We move. We get older. And every change, the world becomes a new place."

On the evening of Friday, March 4, Barr hosted and served as a juror for the show of "Not the World We Used to Know" a comprehensive exhibit of University of Montana students and alumni's artwork produced throughout the pandemic. Artists were given a prompt on the concept of change and asked to submit their work to be selected and judged by three UM faculty for awards.

Out of 65 submissions, Barr said the gallery showcases 44 pieces with short statements explaining the artwork. Each artist used a variety of media, from sculptures to photography to ceramics to sketches in notebooks.

One of these mediums was porcelain slip-cast drawings made by UM graduate student Annaliese Cole-Weiss. Cole-Weiss, who graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelor's in ceramic art and is now pursuing her post-bachelorette in ceramics, has three small pieces featured in the gallery, all of which revolve around the concepts of childhood and domestic life. Cole-Weiss' porcelain slip-cast drawings include a laundry basket and a toothbrush, a TV and a small couch chair and a chair overlooking a window.

"A lot of my work deals with memory and childhood when a lot of time kids have a hard time discerning what's real and what's not real," Cole-Weiss said. "And I think that space between what's art and reality is important to access because you can fill in the blanks for where things were not."

Other artwork focuses on larger signs of change. "Troublesome 1 & 2," two pieces by UM graduate student Dagny Walton, revolve around the loss of natural and human places to the effects of climate change. One screen-printed image depicts a house on fire, a visual representation of how climate change impacts humans. The other "Troublesome" work focuses on the silhouette of a deer fleeing wildfire.

Walton said the screen-printed series reflects on the East Troublesome Fire, a massive wildfire that scorched nearly 200,000 acres in her



Students look at artwork from the "Not the World We Used to Know" exhibit produced by students and alumni during the pandemic. Students, staff, faculty and alumni interpreted the concept of change and before-and-after perspectives relating to the pandemic. RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

home state of Colorado.

"I lived in the American West almost my whole life," Walton said. "So it's sort of a response to the massive amount of environmental change we're going through and the wildfires we see more frequently every summer."

Walton's "Troublesome 1 & 2" received one of three honorable mentions for the juried show. Other awards included a best-in-show, three jurors' choice, a UM Alumni award and a public choice, where viewers of the exhibit got to vote on their favorite piece of artwork.

Joseph Grady, a Montana 10 academic adviser, was one of three UM faculty who helped juror these awards.

Grady said he was a little hesitant to take the role, but after seeing the student's work, everything came naturally to him. As an artist who has been painting and drawing for as long as he can remember, Grady said he could commiserate with the students' experiences reflected through their art.

Grady said he related most to "Dumpster Fire," a piece by UM studio-art student Walter Medcraft that depicts a stifling, busy human aspect of life. In Medcraft's statement, he describes the acrylic-painted piece of his world these days, where he feels as "though we're burning in an uncontrolled dumpster fire."

"In the image itself, I felt escape," Grady said.

"This kind of confined escape, which was what was available, particularly in the heavy part of the lockdown where people were yelling at each other on Facebook. It depicts so much of this narrative around this fear we felt the sense of disconnection and this ambiguity of the future."

While "Dumpster Fire" stood out to Grady and went on to win the public's choice, Grady said he connected with a lot of the artwork at the show. He also said he hopes UM continues to have more showcases like this in the future,

where students get a chance to express their creativity and process their experiences.

"It's important we provide creative outlets for students to process what we've just been through," Grady said. "Students communicating where they're unsatisfied, where they're unsure of the future, that's been central the last two years and we try to show up for students in a way to provide purpose and belonging."

"Not The World We Knew Before" is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. through April 8.

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Upsets, comebacks and the return of Grizzly softball

MAX DUPRAS

max.dupras@umconnect.umt.edu

University of Montana softball is coming home for the first time this season and the team is looking for redemption after last year's heartbreaking playoff exit.

The team's nearly month-long road trip ends this week as Montana will take on DePaul in the teams' inaugural matchup of the 2022 season.

"I'm glad that we have gritty softball players here that take on those first four weeks," Head Coach Melanie Meuchel said. "And they are always anxious for when they get to sleep in their own bed, play in front of their own fans and be on their field in what they call 'protect the den.' And so it's one in which we're excited to come back home."

The Grizzlies are through four invitational series with wins over top competition across the western United States. The team's trip started on Feb. 11 at the NorCal Kickoff, which included wins over San Jose State, Saint Mary's and Santa Clara in a strong all-around debut.

The Tracy Beard College Classic took place from Feb. 18 to 20 and pitted the Griz up against a strong North Texas team in its first matchup, resulting in a losing sweep for UM. Even with a tough loss to start the tournament, wins against Mountain West foes Colorado State and Nevada proved to be silver linings over the team's initial performance.

Montana took a trip down the Pacific as the Griz came back from completing a first round upset against North Dakota in the Outrigger Hawaii Invitational held Feb. 24 through 26.

The Grand Canyon Invitational took place from March 4 to 6 and was the team's final pitstop as it took down San Jose State two more times before finishing with a dub against Binghamton.

"The grind of the year and the grind of the season is a lot of travel. But the players are so resilient and so determined to be the best student athlete that they can," Meuchel said.

The all-stars for each invitational vary. Junior infielder Kendall Curtis took the North Dakota upset into her own hands with the only run of the entire game. Curtis would also go for two runs along with a stellar offensive performance from fifth-year infielder Cami Sellers in UM's routing of Colorado State in the invitational prior.

However, one player is looking to match her season last year with a championship trophy this year.

Senior Maygen McGrath will go down as a record-breaking softball player at the University of Montana, but her legacy is still yet to be cemented as a champion. With her senior year



about to close, she is still fighting for the Big Sky Conference trophy.

"The most prideful thing as a coach is to watch them become real independent and know that they're going to be in a good space in whatever community they end up in and wherever they have their job their families and professions. She will add a lot to that community and I'm just proud of who she is as a person," Meuchel said.

McGrath is an academic All-Big Sky Conference player in her last three seasons, with her junior season being one of the greatest in Griz history. Starting at shortstop, she ended her year with the second-highest single-season batting average and slugging percentage in Grizzly history.

She holds the record for the program's longest hitting streak with 19 straight games. Her records were also backed up by strong single season averages. She led the Big Sky Conference in hits, runs and total bases along with her record batting average.

The Salem, Oregon, native has been an all-star since she arrived, earning a Big Sky



Conference Player of the Week and becoming the second leading scorer with 32 runs in her inaugural season.

"I think I'm just trying to have fun. I'm not trying to worry about breaking records or doing anything special, but just being able to enjoy my time here and being able to do what I can for my teammates and just for a team as a whole," McGrath said.

The last time Montana won a postseason championship was in 2017 against Weber State. McGrath is a part of a regime change after former head coach Jamie Pinkerton left for Iowa State in 2017. Meuchel took the star-studded roster as she was promoted from assistant to head of the program.

"I think that they have a lot of potential and that we have a lot of really good strong athletes here and really good lowerclassmen. I think that they have a lot of potential and will do really great," Meuchel said.

The Grizzlies sit at 6-9 on the season. The team's first home games take place from March 11 to 13 for the Montana Invitational.

"We're excited to be able to play in front of them and just have a lot of fun enjoying ourselves and enjoying our little interactions that we are able to get with each individual," McGrath said.

ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN

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While on tour with one of those bands, he was inadvertently exposed to his future calling. During a national tour with the band Newlyweds, Jackson had his first taste of Southern-fried hot chicken.

While working for the ill-fated Missoula

contingent of ClassPass, he hopped on a Zoom meeting and suddenly had to face a serious life change.

"We had a pretty dystopian firing," Jackson said. "We were on a Zoom call, me and like 150 other people. Someone just popped out and I was like, 'Hey, everybody ...'"

Losing the 9-to-5 job meant he had to invest in something different.

"At least it was kind of the catalyst that I needed to go do something else," Jackson said. That something else would turn out to be a white box truck with red, yellow and green stripes. A food truck that had belonged to Ninja Mike's (now Golden Yolk), but not used very often due to its lack of power steering and difficulties with mobility. Like Jackson, the truck is industrious, but not built for speed.

"The fastest I've gotten this going is about 45, and, as you know, there's a big hole in the side," Jackson said.

Luckily, his simple menu of fried popcorn chicken and chicken sandwiches proved such a hit that the truck rarely has to move. Unlike other food trucks that have to chase crowds, M-80 Chicken brings its own hungry fans.

"The first day we opened, I think we sold out in 40 minutes," Jackson said. "It was just so insane."

In the two years that M-80 Chicken has been open, the truck has routinely sold out. Jackson estimates that they sell out of chicken 70 to 75% of the time.

"That's our whole methodology, just taking some inspiration from Southern barbecue places. They make a batch for the day and they plan it to sell out and that's the business plan."

The truck gets rave reviews online, including a few couples claiming the spicy Korean sandwich helped them induce labor. Even his old athletics cohorts flock the truck to get a taste of what Jackson's cooking up now.

"We tried them all. We had the spicy Korean, we've had his normal," Schweyen said. "And during the playoffs, he had a Jared Allen, that was a spicy buffalo chicken. That was good too."

This summer he plans to roll out a second truck so M-80 can continue to make the best chicken in the Kettlehouse parking lot while also catering to private and public events. The crowds don't seem to be thinning any time soon. He and his wife field requests for catering on a near daily basis and a steady local following keeps the chicken man busy every day on Myrtle Street.

"It's a really cool community and then on First Fridays, everyone's walking around checking out the Hip Strip and stumbling upon us," Jackson said. "Great spot, really great people, and it just fits."

Sandos and shot puts: The story of Nick Jackson

ASA THOMAS METCALFE

first.last@umontana.edu

From shot putting to frying "the best chicken north of Wyoming," Nick Jackson has been involved with many things in Missoula. But his newest project, the M-80 Chicken food truck, might be his most iconic and enduring.

Jackson spent his high school years playing football and wrestling in Billings. He played the sports that made use of how much bigger he was than the other kids. When he graduated, he was recruited to the track and field team at the University of Montana.

"I didn't run though. I threw stuff," Jackson said. "I was not built for speed."

Jackson competed in the hammer throw, discus and shot put while studying entertainment management in the College of Business. He placed top 10 in the Big Sky Conference for the hammer throw at the 2016 and 2018 outdoor championships and top 10 in the conference for the shot put at the 2015 indoor championship.

"He was in a tough position," said Brian Schweyen, who headed the track program at UM at the time. "He went through three different coaches in his throwing. That's always tough in a career, but he managed very well and he was an excellent thrower. He had some great marks."

He found a good sense of community in the UM program and felt supported by his coaches.

"I came from a really really strict program in high school," Jackson said. "They took it very very seriously. That's not totally my personality. I do a lot better when I have a coach like Brian [Schweyen] that'll ease into stuff and have a little bit more of a community culture rather than one based strictly around performance."

Jackson fell in love with the broader Missoula community as well, and stayed after college. He got an internship through the school and worked remotely to book bands on tour.

"That was really fun," Jackson said. "I want to do that. It's just hard to do that and build those relationships over the phone. Whereas people that are living in Nashville or LA go to shows every single night, scout talent, all that stuff."

Jackson played in a few Missoula bands himself. He fronted Haunter, a shoe-gazey post-emo band that performed a handful of shows and recorded a demo before the drummer moved to Denver, putting the band on an extended hiatus.

While on tour with one of those bands, he was inadvertently exposed to his future calling. During a national tour with the band Newlyweds, Jackson had his first taste of Southern-fried hot chicken.

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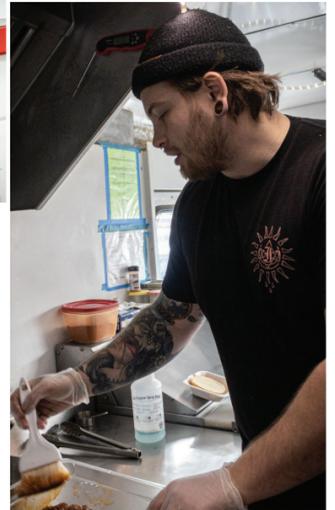
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Former UM Track and Field shot putter Nick Jackson, 27, is the owner of M-80 Chicken food truck behind the Kettlehouse parking lot and has made a living selling crispy chicken sandwiches to Missoulians.

Jackson, bathing a piece of fried chicken in sauce, opened the food truck during the pandemic to create a sandwich that was spicy enough to outshine the competition across Missoula.

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'Fire Clayton Looney' takes over the Oval; UM says it can't take action on professor's racist messages

WORDS BY
GRIFFEN SMITH

griffen.smith@umontana.edu

PHOTOS BY
ANTONIO IBARRA

jose.ibarraolivares@umontana.edu

Calls for a University of Montana professor to resign rang loud in front of Main Hall on March 3 as more than 100 people, including students, department heads and UM's president, grappled with racist text messages that have circulated for almost a year.

"Someone said that they couldn't do anything, because it's freedom of speech, but what happens when your freedom of speech compromises the safety of other people?" asked Ajaysia Hill, leader of the "Fire Clayton Looney" movement, facing the Oval. "No one wants to work in a place where their colleagues are using the n-word, or referring to Muslim people as slurs."

Clayton Looney, a professor of Management Information Systems at UM's College of Business, has been documented calling his daughter the n-word, referred to muslims as "sand n---s" alongside other offensive text messages published online last year. The screenshotted texts were contributed by Hill, and are messages between Looney and his ex-wife.

While the protest had a clear message — fire Looney and address other disparities for BIPOC members of campus — the University told the Kaimin no action will be taken with Looney, according to Dave Kuntz, director of strategic information at UM. The University classified Looney's situation as a non-workplace issue.



LEFT: Ajaysia Hill speaks directly to President Seth Bodnar, in the audience, demanding action from his administration regarding professor Clayton Looney's past racist remarks. Hill brought Looney's comments to light in March 2021 to Bodnar and business school Dean Suzanne Tilleman.



LEFT: ASUM Senator Erin Heaton shoulder-to-shoulder with concerned students at the protest outside Main Hall on March 3. The Women's Resource Center organized the rally with funding from ASUM calling on UM officials to take action regarding Looney's employment at the University.



ABOVE: From left, students Macykate Ogle, Asher Swan and Annabelle Decuire react during a series of chants against racism on campus and at the "Fire Clayton Looney" rally.

LEFT: Ankara Taçidin, a freshman at UM, speaks about their experience as a student of color at the University. "I honestly do not feel safe here," Taçidin said. "It's not even just a Montana thing, but other parts of the country, too."



ABOVE: University of Montana President Seth Bodnar, right, makes an appearance in front of students and faculty at the "Fire Clayton Looney" rally. "I want you to know that I am angry when I read these comments," Bodnar said. "When we talk about the limits of what the University can and does have jurisdiction on, and what it doesn't, I know that that creates frustration."