

EDGE OF OUTBREAK

UM BRACES FOR CORONAVIRUS

PAGES 6 TO 13

CLOSE TO HOME

For some at UM, the effects of COVID-19 hit before the first case touched U.S. soil
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A HIGHER CALLING

A former UM student's barrier-breaking journey to become a pilot
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The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qeymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message," or "paper that brings news."

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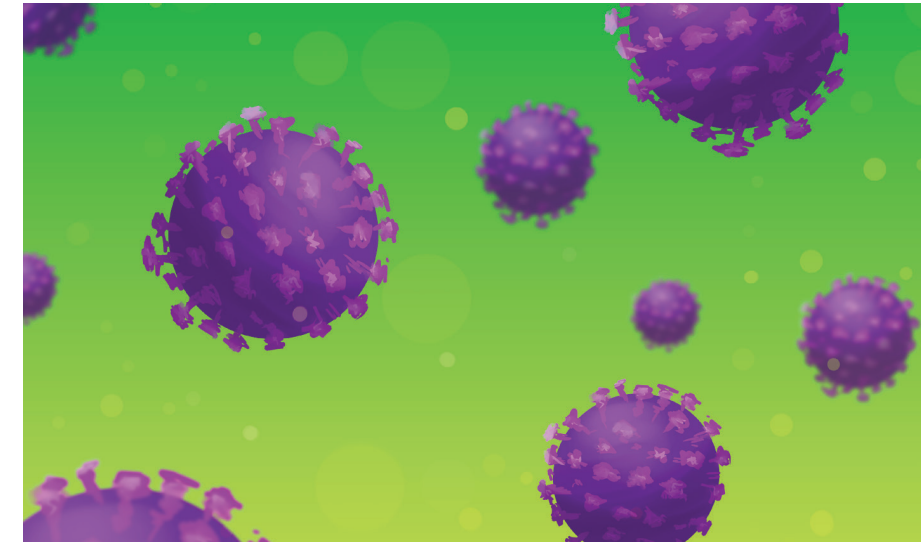
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The other epidemic we should be fighting is panic

From Wuhan to Milan to Qom to Seattle, Coronavirus has arrived. As of March 9, 34 states and the District of Columbia have already reported cases of the virus, and 19 people in the U.S. have died from the disease. Though officials are still working to determine exactly how the disease spreads, they are certain that it is very contagious. These facts are daunting, but besides washing your hands, the staff at the Kaimin encourages you not to panic.

Eight pages in this week's issue will provide the naked data and necessary information about the most internationally taxing disease since the Ebola outbreak of 2014. The stories also reveal the work that's been done to ensure that when the disease reaches Missoula (and that is a when), weeks of preparation from administrators, doctors, professors and students will soften the blow.

Since the World Health Organization recognized COVID-19 as a potential worldwide threat in January, UM has not been idle.

A campus task force has been mobilized to keep campus leaders in touch with state and local experts tracking the disease.

Contingency plans have been administered in case classes and some trips abroad are canceled. Meanwhile, concerts have still sold out, movie theaters remain open and St. Patrick's Day celebrations around Missoula will still be held over spring break.

Reporting on the Coronavirus is the obligation of any paper, and it isn't for clicks. Nothing contained here has been sensationalized. Accurate and timely reporting, combined with prompt responses from the administration will have the manifold effect of telling this campus what its leaders have been doing with their time for the past three months and combating readers' impulses to panic.

That panic can translate to spreading gossip just as contagious as a virus. It leads to the compulsive and unnecessary stockpiling of toilet paper and even indulging in xenophobic impulses to associate certain countries with certain diseases. We've got the cure for that contained here. Again, wash your hands, and read on.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Medium

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2		8			6		7	
7	5				9			
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HOW TO SOLVE:

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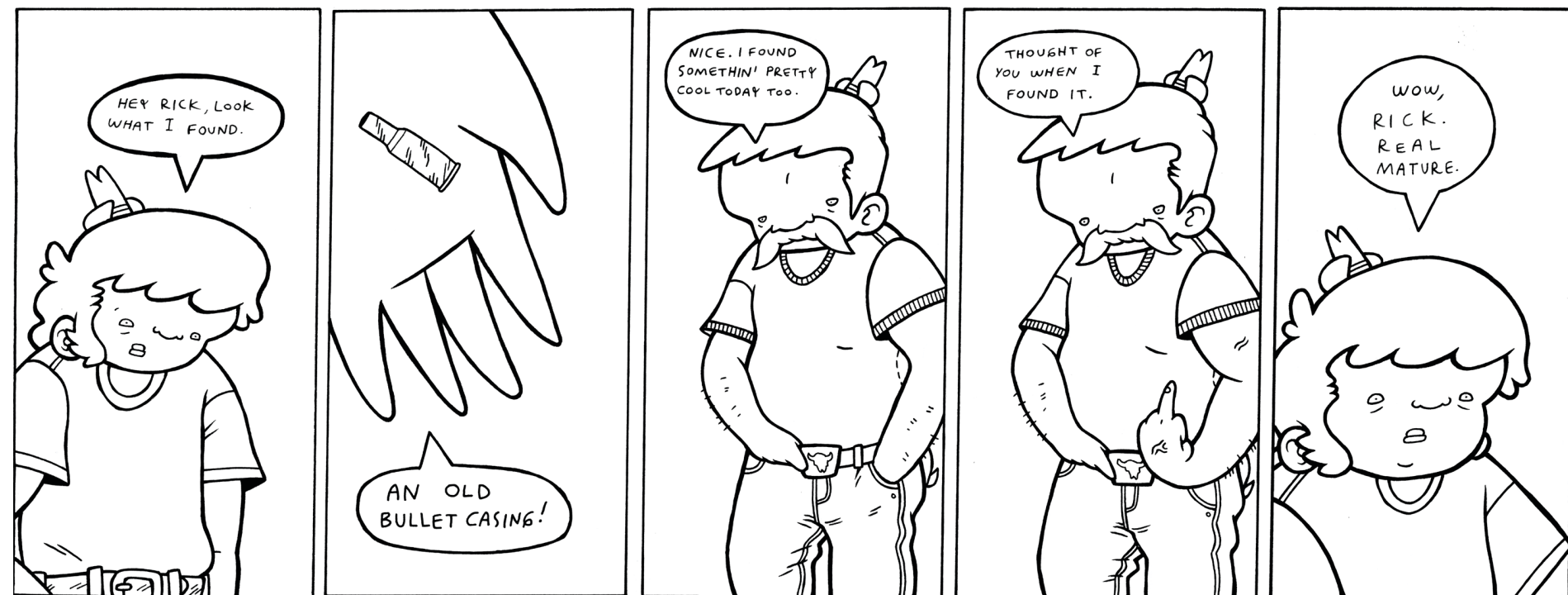
Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN



Intoxicated hulks, mysterious smells and highly talented singers

ALEX MILLER
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FEB. 27: THINK OF YOUR EDUCATION!

A resident in Helena Court notified UMPD that the smell of the dankest of the dank was wafting into their home. Officers were able to trace the smell to a neighboring unit. When the toker opened the door, Police gave a lecture on the evils of the stanky maple leaf and how continuing to inhale would make them fail... academically. The offender promised to hit the books and not bongs in the future.

FEB. 28: HULK-A-MANIA

All it took was one bad night for a student to get recognized for his strength. The raging Hulk wannabe was seen ripping down posters, flipping a bike rack and kicking over a 200 pound concrete trash can outside of Stone Hall. Gravity is what broke this trash receptacle, but still, not cool bro. Officers found the Hulkster outside the health and science building, where he admitted that his outburst was, in part, fueled by alcohol. He promised to never do such a stupid thing again. Tell that to the poor trash can.

FEB. 29: YOU KIDS AND YOUR DEVIL MUSIC

Students in Aber Hall trying to catch some sleep in the earliest moments of Leap Day were rudely interrupted by a car blaring music. Officers made contact with the parked vehicle only to find it packed with a foursome of extremely talented singers. They were asked to stop. Immediately.

FEB. 29: YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO HOME, BUT YOU CAN'T STAY HERE

Leap Day left off the wrong foot for one gentleman at Bannack Court. The possibly intoxicated ne'er-do-well was trying to get into his apartment, but could not quite find it. Concerned residents alerted UMPD. In identifying the lost soul, they found that the man had an outstanding warrant. After contacting Missoula Police Department, he got a free ride to his new home.

MAR. 4: PEPE LA PEW STRIKES AGAIN

RAs notified UMPD around 11:30 p.m. that the first floor bathroom of Miller Hall stank ... Like sweet Al Green. After investigating the bathroom, officers determined that a skunk was the cause of the odor. However, they never actually saw one.



SYDNEY AKRIDGE & HELENA DORE

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HONORARY DOCTORATES

The University of Montana announced it will award three honorary doctorates at the commencement ceremony May 9, according to a UM press release. William "Bill" Franke, William S. Yellow Robe Jr. and the late Bonnie "Sim-Sin" Heavy Runner will all be recognized by the University. Franke, a UM donor and businessman, will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Business and will be the featured speaker at the 9 a.m. ceremony. Yellow Robe is a playwright and educator, and he will receive an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts. He will speak at the 2 p.m. ceremony. Heavy Runner will receive a posthumous Honorary Doctorate of Law. She was a two-time UM graduate in social work and law. She worked as a lawyer, educator, civil rights advocate and the founding director of the Native American Studies department.

SENATE'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

Congress voted to approve \$8.3 million of aid to combat COVID-19 in the U.S. The emergency bill passed 415-2 in the House March 4 and 96-1 in the Senate March 5. The

funding will go to agencies dealing with the novel Coronavirus as well as helping Medicare providers work with at-risk patients remotely. COVID-19 has spread from China to 104 other countries with 423 confirmed cases and 22 deaths in the U.S., as of March 9. While 19 states have reported cases, there are no confirmed cases in Montana.

SETH BODNAR ADMITS HE CHEATED AT ESPORTS AND STILL LOST AT BOARD OF REGENTS

President Seth Bodnar and Provost Jon Harbor promoted a new degree in game design and interactive media at the Montana Board of Regents meeting in Dillon on March 5 and 6. Harbor invited Michael Cassens, UM's director of Esports and an associate professor at the School of Media Arts, to speak about promoting gaming. "There's a groundswell that we've found in our students in high school and surrounding communities that want to learn something new. And they want to come to this University and find this out," Cassens said. Bodnar then brought up his own experience playing Esports. "I will say I got my tail whipped playing against some of them [Esports players]. I just sat there and hit a bunch of buttons and I got roundly defeated, even with Monte covering the eyes of some of the team members," he said. "I even tried to cheat and couldn't win."

UM plans to move up tuition deadline this fall

CAMERON KIA WEIX
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UM plans to move up its tuition deadline to a week after classes begin, which may be sooner than some students can afford.

In the past five years, the final tuition deadline has varied from about a week before to more than 60 days after classes started, according to data from Paul Lasiter, vice president of operations and finance. Beginning this fall, UM plans to move the initial deadline to a week after the first day of classes.

Lasiter said in an email he does not know why the deadlines were moved back because he started at UM last year. He said later deadlines meant students could find they were unable to pay after committing to classes and financial aid.

"Our payment deadlines are way too lax," Lasiter said. "It's doing a disservice to students in a lot of cases."

Ryan Weeks, a junior, works as a firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service and said an earlier deadline could mean more stress for student firefighters.

Weeks, who is president of the UM Student Association for Fire Ecology and Management, said many firefighters work as much as a week and a half into the school year. He said assignments can last two to three weeks and giving them up could mean not earning hundreds or thousands of dollars.

"I don't think that would be very fair to firefighters because usually their main income is that summer job," Weeks said. "For me, the transition between fire season and school is hard enough as it is."

In 2017, a record wildfire season for Montana, UM extended deadlines for student firefighters, according to its website. Weeks said he would support a program to help students who need to delay paying tuition, as moving up the deadline could make it difficult for firefighters to pay on time.

Student veterans have also had issues, including being dropped from classes after not receiving their VA

benefits in time, according to Shay Caldwell with the UM VETS Office.

Cathy Cole, vice president for enrollment and strategic communication, said UM would put a process in place to help groups like firefighters and veterans. She said until then, students with tuition issues should contact her directly.

"We will work with those student groups on a case by case basis, and any student that has any type of hardship because the deadline moves up need only send me an email," Cole said.

Discussions to move up the deadline began February 2019, according to Cole. She said an earlier deadline would provide better enrollment data, which could determine which classes would be taught and which sections would be combined.

"It just prolonged a process that didn't need to be prolonged," Cole said.

"We will have all our ducks in a row, so students can come to campus and simply not worry about anything."

Associated Students of the University of Montana President Abigail Belcher planned to meet with Cole and Lasiter this month.

"Right now, I think I'm most concerned about the ability for Financial Aid to be able to process all of the student scholarships in time," Belcher said.

Taylor Gregory, an ASUM senator, said financial aid could also cause problems for students who are studying abroad like him. He said when he returned this spring he needed his grades from his study abroad institution to receive financial aid, and he didn't get a transcript until mid-January.

Gregory said if the deadline was earlier, he might have had to pay tuition without financial aid, which he could not have afforded.

Director of Financial Aid Emily Williamson said in an email that students can tell the office about pending aid or scholarships through Cyberbear, email or in person. The office could then prevent late fees or dropping the student until the 15th day of classes.



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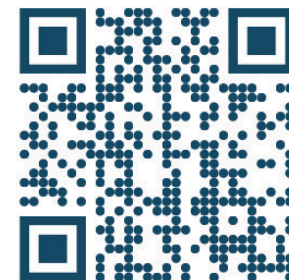
Prepare for potential campus shutdown amid spreading COVID-19
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For some at UM, the effects of Coronavirus hit before the first case touched U.S. Soil
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For the most recent Coronavirus news at UM, visit our website at montanakaimin.com/news/coronavirus



Prepare for potential campus shutdown amid spreading COVID-19

MAZANA BOERBOOM

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University of Montana administrators and faculty are preparing to move classes online in the event of a coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak on campus.

Emails went out on March 3 to faculty and students with tips to prepare for an outbreak, but Central and Southwest Asian Studies Director Mehrdad Kia has been ready for weeks.

"We are hoping and praying we will remain safe and clean," Kia said.

Kia said he hopes no one will test positive for the virus at UM. There are no confirmed cases in Montana as of March 9. He will continue to hold regular classes, unless the administration does call for a shut down. "I concluded that we need to just have a precautionary approach," he said.

Kia wants to have a strategy ready so he doesn't have to scramble if the campus shuts down. He has exchanged contact information with all his students and established online assignments for the next few weeks for students to complete if classes are canceled. He believes it is important to be direct and open with his students about what the expectations will be in case of an outbreak.

Kia and his colleagues at the Central and Southwest Asian center also postponed the program's Annual International Conference on Central and Southwest Asia until 2021, which would have been held in April. This would have been the 18th year the conference was held at UM, but many of the visitors would have come from locations with coronavirus outbreaks.

A campus shutdown is uncharted territory, according to Paula Short, director of communication for UM. She said she doesn't know of any time campus shut down for a public health matter.

"I suspect it would take a confirmed outbreak of some magnitude to close UM altogether," Short stated in an email.

UM's Campus Preparedness and Response Group (CPRG) has been in close contact with state and local health officials, who will help decide if and when a shut down is necessary.

As for students living on campus, Short said many will likely travel home, but University housing and some dining facilities will remain open over spring break.

"We would certainly take care of any/all students who needed to remain on campus," Short stated in an email.

In the meantime, Short said UM is working to prepare faculty who have little experience with online instruction and to figure out how to work out limitations for performance and field-intensive classes and labs.

"Our goal is to help you and your students successfully complete the academic term, even if coronavirus is confirmed on campus or in Missoula," Provost Jon Harbor said in an email sent to faculty March 3.

Harbor encouraged faculty to access the Keep on Teaching website made by UM Online staff on March 2.

"Which is really impressive, because I think we started talking about it last Friday [Feb. 28]," said Jordan Costello, a UM Online instructional designer.

The website compiles resources and information about teaching online using Moodle, UM Box and/or Zoom — a video conferencing software. There is also a list of strategies inspired by Pepperdine Community and Indiana University ranging from identifying plans ahead of time to providing detailed instructions.

UM Online is also providing training and workshops for faculty who need help making the transition online. Their first session was held Friday, March 6. Accessible Technology Services and Disability Services for Students also worked on the training to make sure online tools are accessible to all students. There will be more, but the date and location has not yet been determined.

While UM Online holds other training courses for Moodle, generally at the start of a semester, the Keep on Teaching response is new.

Costello said while the Keep on Teaching strategy was developed in response to COVID-19, it can also be used for other possible scenarios such as a natural disaster or unsafe campus conditions. She said UM doesn't know what might happen, but it should be prepared for anything.

Costello and fellow instructional designer Nancy Clouse urged faculty to work together, be proactive about

communicating with students and be prepared to move courses online.



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COVID-19 cancels study abroad for some UM students

AIDAN MORTON
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UM faculty met Friday, March 6, to discuss the future of students currently studying abroad and faculty-led trips planned for this summer as the COVID-19 virus continues to spread globally.

There are 80 UM students currently traveling abroad and 130 students plan to travel abroad this summer, according to the Global Engagement office. UM is currently reviewing student travel to countries the Centers for Disease and Health Control (CDC) has labeled a level 2 health notice or higher for COVID-19. The CDC advises people to take precautions and postpone nonessential travel to these countries, where only Japan is currently listed. Two UM students are studying abroad in Japan this semester, and two more students plan on studying there this summer.

In an email sent on March 6 to UM students studying abroad, the University's Global Engagement office said it suspended a faculty-led program to Hong Kong and Macau in China on that was scheduled to take place in March. The Global Engagement office will also be suspending all China summer programs.

Current level 3 health notice countries include China, South Korea, Iran and Italy, according to the CDC website. The CDC advises travelers to avoid any nonessential travel to these countries because of "widespread community transmission." Any student group travel to level 3 health notice countries will be "reviewed by the UM International Travel Review Committee with final approval by the Provost," according to the Global Engagement office email.

There are faculty-led trips to Vietnam, India, the Dominican Republic, Zambia, Botswana, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Romania, Ireland and Northern Ireland planned for this summer. Lee Banville, a journalism professor at UM, will take students to Northern Ireland this summer. Banville said he felt really

assured with the University's plan for study abroad with COVID-19. "It's going to complicate a lot of travel," Banville said. "But it's worth taking these students on a unique experience."

The Global Engagement office at UM recommended that the groups consider the risk factors, mitigating factors and then formulate a safety plan before their trips. The groups were also asked to consider the educational value students could gain from the trip.

Students will be refunded as much as is available for student fees if trips end up being canceled. All the money that is able to be refunded from student expenditures will be distributed back to the students, and UM will provide legal assistance to any faculty negotiating refund amounts, Banville said. Faculty trip leaders will discuss the status of non-refundable expenses if their trips are canceled, as well.

Damara Stewart, a forestry student at UM, plans to study abroad with a group in Zambia and Botswana this summer. She said her faculty leader has been in contact with her and other students, advising them on potential risks and COVID-19 news as it develops. Stewart said she has already bought and insured her tickets because of uncertainty to where the virus will spread, but she doesn't lose sleep over the possibility that the trip could be canceled.

"I'm not too worried about it as of now," Stewart said. "But I'll be keeping my eye out."



You can find the latest Coronavirus news at UM on our website montanakaimin.com/news/coronavirus/

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UM and Curry Health Center prepare for possible COVID-19 cases

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Curry Health Center put in place precautions and policies in response to a potential COVID-19 outbreak on campus, most notably including a separate cough and cold treatment area.

The center updated its website with a coronavirus portal. A hotline has also been set up for people to call if they have been in contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms like fever, cough or difficulty breathing. At the health center, signs posted encourage students experiencing cough or cold symptoms to enter through a separate, west entrance and take an elevator up, one at a time, to a cough and cold clinic at the back of the Curry Medical Center. Rick Curtis, director of the Curry Health Center, said that this set up is common during times of serious illness outbreaks. Curtis said Curry has enacted similar procedures during the H1N1 flu of 2009 and SARS pandemic of 2003.

"That way, you don't have someone who is just trying to pick up their birth control coming in contact with someone who is in for more serious reasons," Curtis said.

The cough and cold clinic is not specific to coronavirus, UM spokesperson Paula Short said. Because it's cold and flu season, Short said Curry is attempting to handle all potential sicknesses in the most effective way possible. Included at the clinic, however, are the nose and throat swab tests that will allow Curry health officials to test for COVID-19 infections. Additionally, the clinic is equipped with a negative pressure room, Short said, which is used to contain airborne contaminants and prevent them from drifting into other areas of the space.

The nose and throat swab tests conducted at Curry are currently being driven to a lab in Helena each day for testing, Short said. So far, none have come back positive.

The Campus Preparedness Response Group (CPRG), a UM organization that analyzes the University's capacity to handle various situations, has been meeting once a week to discuss UM's next moves

in preparing for the possibility of coronavirus on campus, according to Short.

"The University wants to be as prepared as possible. That's what this all comes down to," Short said. "The Curry part of the equation is just one of many aspects of campus response."

Aside from the separate treatment area and nose and throat swab coronavirus tests, not much will change, Short said. Curry will use the hotline and its regular UM extension to advise students when to stay home and when to come in for testing. Travel history will play into that conversation, especially after spring break travel. If a student is feeling symptoms that could point toward coronavirus, Curry will ask about their recent travel to further assess the situation. If a student was in a country or city with a high amount of COVID-19 infections, it is likely they will be asked to come in for testing, Short said.

Self-quarantine has proven to be one of the most effective forms of coronavirus prevention, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Students should call their medical provider, or Curry's hotline, to plan their next moves if they are feeling sick, Short said.

Any person coming from a CDC-designated level 3 country must be put under a 14-day self-quarantine. A level 3 designation means the CDC recommends that people in that area only travel when it is essential. Short said UM will be administering this same policy. The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is tracking the coronavirus in the state. As of March 9, there are no confirmed cases in Montana. According to the website, 28 individuals have been or are in the process of being monitored by public health officials, 19 have completed the process. At the time of publication, 11 people had been tested for COVID-19, and all tests came back negative.

The Montana Kaimin's coverage of Coronavirus will be updated on our website daily at montanakaimin.com/news/coronavirus/



A sign taped to a hand sanitizer station inside Curry Health Center's west entrance instructs people who are experiencing symptoms of cold, fever, cough or sore throat to go to its cough and cold clinic. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, call your medical provider or the Curry Health Center hotline at (406) 243-4330 to discuss your treatment options.

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CLOSE TO HOME

FOR SOME AT UM, THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 HIT BEFORE THE FIRST CASE TOUCHED U.S. SOIL

University of Montana student Yueyang Hu waits to hear the price for sending boxes of medical masks to Shanghai. Because of travel restrictions due to the coronavirus, shipping is more expensive and an estimated time isn't given as packages have to take a circuitous route to get into the country. "We can't give you an exact time frame for this address because everything is really up in the air with this right now," the Post Office employee said.

LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN



ADDIE SLANGER

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Balancing two cardboard boxes against his knee, Yueyang Hu carefully closed the door of his truck. The boxes proved to be a cumbersome load for the 23-year-old University of Montana grad student as he joined the end of the long line at the Post Office and set the boxes on the counter.

"What's the postal code on that, again?" the mail clerk asked him when, fi-

nally, it was his turn.

"200333."

The employee entered in the six-digit number and squinted at the results.

"So it's saying that we can't give you an exact time frame for this address," the employee said. "Because everything is really up in the air with this right now."

Hu was not surprised. The packages were addressed to his family in Shanghai. And the boxes were packed full of medical masks, more than 400 of them.

Hu sent the masks, as he

has done several times, as a means to help stop the spread of COVID-19 — the coronavirus that emerged in Wuhan, China, in late January and is now spreading in the U.S. and around the world. In the span of a month, it became a pandemic. Global governments and health organizations have attempted to act, in reactive and preventative measures, ever since.

Well over 100,000 people worldwide have been infected by COVID-19. Of these cases, over 3,600 have died. The

virus has been most-recently estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) to have a 3.4% mortality rate, compared to the 0.1% that generally constitutes the seasonal flu.

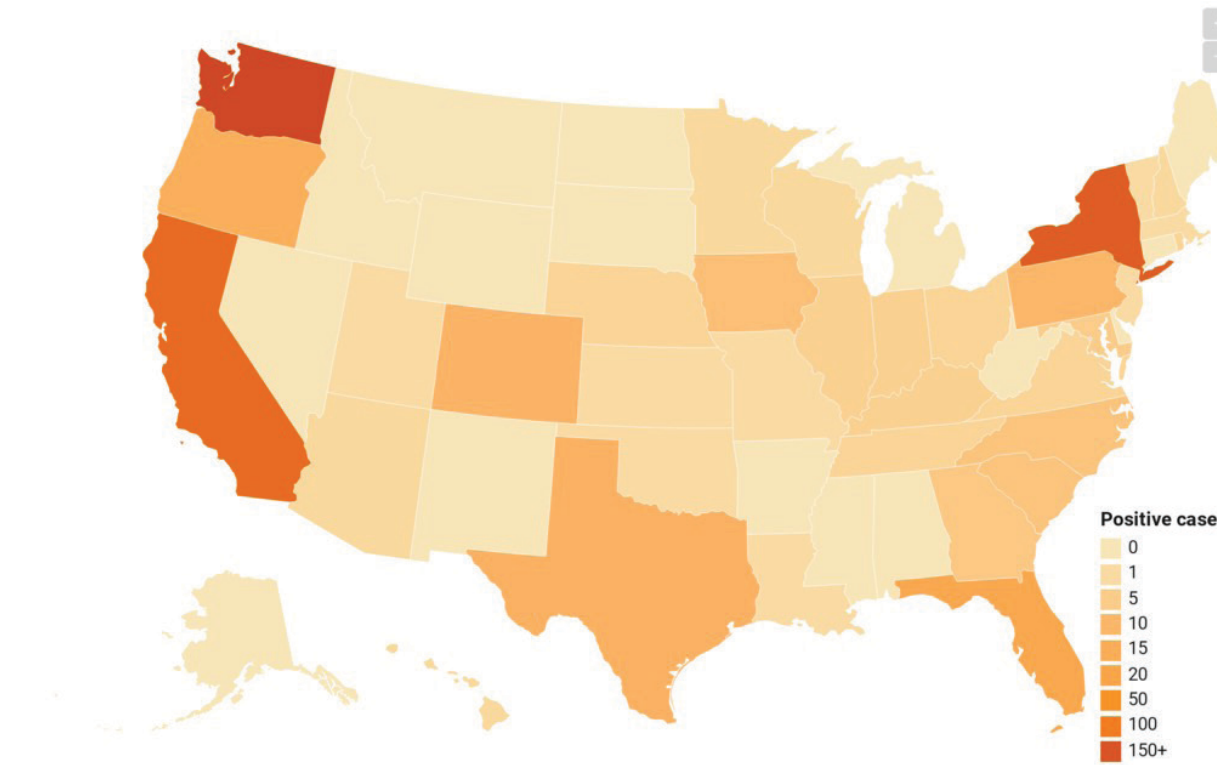
As of Monday, March 9, there were no confirmed cases in Montana. According to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, 11 people have been tested for COVID-19 in the state. All have come back negative.

The virus is spreading rapidly, with the first confirmed cases

in the U.S. reported as early as January. It wasn't until recently, however, that the United States saw any deaths. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported the first fatalities in Washington in the last week of February and into early March. At press time for this article, there were 22 deaths in the U.S. The Washington area was hit particularly hard with at least 18 deaths, and last week, the University of Washington canceled its in-person classes as a result. The provost at UM

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAKS IN THE U.S.

This map shows the reported and confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 by state. At the time of publication, 34 states and the District of Columbia had confirmed cases of Coronavirus. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at least 19 people with the virus have died, as of March 9.



CASSIDY ALEXANDER | MONTANA KAIMIN

has emailed instructors that they should lay the groundwork for that possibility here, too.

Experts agree it's less a question of if but when the virus will appear in Montana, and the entire Montana University System (MUS) is trying to plan accordingly. But many international students at UM have faced the challenges of the coronavirus epidemic long before officials considered an all-out campus shutdown.

For Hu, the danger has always been near. He's been sending masks back to his family in bulk for the last month, ever since China started facing an extreme shortage of items following the outbreak.

The government there has encouraged people to use masks, although it's not likely common surgical masks will prevent a virus from entering someone's body, according to experts. However, masks can be helpful to slow the spread from people already infected. Masks also serve as a barrier against touching our faces.

Hu has made two trips to the post office and sent more than 800 masks. Some of the masks were donated by a company he works remotely for in Wisconsin, but he pays for the rest of the products and shipping out of his own pocket.

So far he has spent more than \$500.

Time is of the essence for Hu. His dad is a police officer and needs the masks for himself and his employees. Hu said many of the masks donated to the government go straight to nursing staff, skipping over public safety officials like the police. That is why Hu is choosing to send the masks to his family directly.

The first time Hu sent his family supplies, they were delayed for more than two weeks. The coronavirus-related travel ban has significantly impacted international shipping, Hu said.

The USPS website states it has temporarily suspended the guarantee on Priority Mail Express

International services to Hong Kong and China due to widespread airline cancellations and restrictions in the areas. FedEx, the company Hu used to ship the first round of masks, has no official comment on its website regarding shipping to China. However, when Shanghai's postal code is entered into FedEx's shipping tracker, an error message pops up stating the server had trouble establishing a connection. That same message does not occur when, for example, a Great Falls postal code is entered.

The travel ban is one of many challenges international students at UM are facing. And it constitutes more

SYMPTOMS OF CORONAVIRUS

Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness.

Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure and can include:

FEVER

COUGH

SHORTNESS OF BREATH

If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of Coronavirus, has been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or has recently been in an area with ongoing spread of the virus, call your medical provider or the Curry Health Center hotline at (406) 243-4330 to discuss your treatment options.



University of Montana student Yueyang Hu handles two packages filled with over 400 medical masks to be sent to his family in Shanghai amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Hu has spent over \$500 out of his own pocket sending masks to China to combat the outbreak.

LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

than shipping delays. Visa appointments (and delays), summer visitations and international program excursions are all affected by the virus. UM and other universities are dealing with the ramifications. The Covid-19 outbreak has numerous implications for students traveling internationally and nationally.

Deena Mansour, director of the Mansfield Center, said the University is seeing the effects of the virus. From international program postponements and cancellations to the increasing proximity of infected U.S. citizens, UM is being forced to grapple with the implications.

Unique to the University, and the only one of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region, the Mansfield Center works to promote interaction between UM students and faculty and international scholars. Among many other functions, the Mansfield Center coordinates all travel of international students enrolled in its programs at UM.

Every month, for at least the next five months, the Mansfield Center had international studies or immersion programs planned, meaning Asian students would come live and study at UM, Mansour said. Those programs were postponed or canceled. Notably, a Model United Nations camp scheduled for July was also postponed. The camp, a result of President Seth Bodnar's visit to China, planned to host a group of Chinese students and Montana high schoolers at UM to conduct a cross-cultural Model UN exercise.

Also affected are UM students currently abroad. UM has no students studying in Italy, Iran, South Korea or China this semester, but students in Japan and Europe may be forced to make the decision to come home early if the virus continues to spread. Those decisions will be based on travel advisories issued by the Centers for Disease Control and the State Department. If a country becomes above a Level 3, meaning essential travel only, it's both UM and Montana University System (MUS) policy to bring students home.

The MUS recently released its revised policy for international travel in reaction to the coronavirus. Iran and China MUS-sponsored travel has been banned until further notice.

Mansour said she was hesitant to blow things out of proportion. While the coronavirus has had many short-term impacts on UM, she said the long-term game is ultimately what's important.

"COVID-19 will run its course, and we'll be back to business as usual," Mansour said. "International engagement is a long game."

That sentiment was mostly reflected at the latest meeting of the Chinese Students' club, which includes international students from China and several other countries.

"I'm not worried at all," Hattie Leifer, the former president of UM's Chinese Club, said. "People are so hyped up about the whole issue, but it's not such a big deal. It could have happened anywhere."

Leifer, 22, is a dual citizen of the U.S. and China. Her family has lived in Hong Kong for more than 30 years, and she was born there. Leifer said she is not as wor-

HELP PROTECT UM FROM CORONAVIRUS

WASH HANDS OFTEN with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. Hand sanitizer is good in a pinch.

KEEP HANDS AWAY from mouth, nose or eyes to avoid transferring germs.

CLEAN AND DISINFECT frequently used surfaces like counters, light switches, doorknobs and remotes.

COVER COUGHS & SNEEZES with a tissue, then throw the tissue away and wash your hands.

If you feel sick, STAY HOME from work, school or other activities and avoid close contact with others.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

CASSIDY ALEXANDER | MONTANA KAIMIN

ried about her family and friends as she is about Hong Kong's economy.

Because self-quarantine is the most effective method of prevention, according to the CDC, many people have been asked to take "unpaid time off," Leifer said. Other members of the club report that's the case with their friends and family, too.

Leifer said she was more concerned for those less fortunate.

"At the end of the day, my family can leave," she said; Leifer's mom has United States citizenship. "But it's the poorer people who can't leave. And now they can't work."

Many Chinese workers have been forced to

quit work because of health safety. China has made efforts to combat forced lay-offs by using solutions primarily related to technology.

This time last year, Wei Tao was teaching at UM as a Fulbright Scholar. She taught intermediate Chinese to UM students and was a teaching assistant to her favorite professor, Zhen Cao. Now, back in China, she teaches English to her class of 60 students. And she does it over an app.

Tao, 31, is currently in self-quarantine at her family home in Wuhan, capital of the Hubei Province in China. She moved back to her hometown last May after teaching for a year

at UM and was teaching at the China University of Geosciences Wuhan when the coronavirus pandemic originated from a produce market in her city.

An average day for Tao now means waking up early and finishing all her last-minute class preparation. From 8:30 a.m. to noon, she's on WeChat, a Whatsapp-like messaging system that allows her to communicate with her students from her family home in the Hongshan district of Wuhan.

The app isn't only used for teaching. Tao also grocery shops on it, making a list of all her necessary items and sending it out for volunteers to collect and drop off at her

home. Quarantine means adaptation, and Tao said that's what the Chinese have been doing best.

Still, a month is a long time. Tao misses her friends and the family she isn't living with. Sometimes all she wants to do is take a walk outside and enjoy Wuhan's unseasonably nice weather. She credits her teaching schedule with keeping her sane.

"If you're busy, you have no time to worry about things," Tao said.

Still, talking to people from behind a screen has become tiresome.

"I just can't wait to give my friends a tight hug," she said. "Just getting to rejoice and speak without having to

worry about sickness. I am very excited for that."

For Hu, Tao and many others, the crisis has been enduring and is far from over.

Hu plans to continue sending masks to his family for as long as he needs. He is constrained by his own financial limits, but said this is far more important to him than anything else at the moment.

"Somebody's got to do it," he said. "People will be lucky if they can get their friends and family covered. And when I see my friends and family struggling back home, and I know I can do something, I feel like I have to."



The Montana Kaimin's coverage of Coronavirus will be updated on our website daily at montanakaimin.com/news/coronavirus/

If you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, call your medical provider or the Curry Health Center hotline at (406) 243-4330 to discuss your treatment options.

1-800-chooseUM

AIDAN MORTON

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Sophomore Bo Henderson calls an average of 23 prospective students an hour. It's one of the highest averages for the 31 students employed at the Student Recruitment Communication Center on campus.

The center can reach out to roughly 1,200 prospective students in a single day to answer any questions or help during the application process. It all depends on how many agents are working and how quickly they're calling, Henderson said he could give his over-the-phone pitch with his eyes closed.

"I probably could," he said. "It's kind of gotten to that point."

The center started its first official campaign, a call list of over 15,000 prospective students, on Feb. 26 in support of the University's UM to You bus tour in Spokane, Washington. This list contains the names and contact information from any students who engaged with UM or the student application in the U.S. This includes students who have scheduled visits, requested their standardized test scores to be sent to UM or have attended UM recruitment events.

"Hi, this is a message for Haley," Henderson read over the phone. "I was just calling because you expressed interest in our school and wanted to see if you have any questions about the University. When you're ready to apply, our online application is super easy. It only takes about 15 minutes to complete, and it doesn't require an essay!"

While Henderson was only working a six hour shift that day, he assumed he would make over 100 calls to students on that list by the time he punched out for the evening. Students run the center every weekday, usually all day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The center selects prospective students to call throughout the day based on the time zone they live in, trying to catch students



COURTESY PHOTO | PIXABAY

when they get out of school. But Henderson said he mostly leaves voicemails.

Every caller follows the same script when they call prospective students, encouraging them to call back with questions and wishing them well during the rest of their senior year. Henderson usually wraps his messages up with a "Go Griz!" It isn't required, but he said it adds an extra touch.

Director of the Student Enrollment Communication Center Bill Nevala said these conversations create a deeper connection with prospective students and the University. Student staff members track the center's success by keeping record of each student they were able to contact and their responses.

"We want to show we will go the extra mile to welcome and assist students in their decision to pursue higher education at UM,"

Nevala said in an email. "We are tracking all contacts made and measuring how those yield throughout the enrollment life cycle."

Cathy Cole, vice president for enrollment and strategic communication at UM, said the idea behind the communication center has been discussed since early 2019. She said having current students contacting potential students is essential, calling it recruitment's "most effective tool in the box."

Cole said UM can't keep up with Bozeman or other universities that spend "millions" on recruitment, but more personal recruitment methods at UM, like the communication center, will make up for the difference. She said that the UM to You tour in Spokane, Washington and Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, saw a "much larger" student turn out than expected.

Cole said prospective students can go to professors and directors with questions about majors or curriculum, but they want to hear about the residence halls, financial aid and campus life from current students. She said, "if a current student says 10 words, it makes all the difference in the world."

There are a lot of recruits to make up for. Enrollment at the University of Montana has dropped 40% from its record high of 10,567 in 2011 to 6,321 in 2019, the Montana Kaimin reported last month. On the other hand, MSU enrollment reached an all-time high in 2019 with 14,510 enrolled students. Cole said she plans for UM's more personal recruitment methods to convince students to choose the University.

"In the end, I feel like that's the way we will win the day," Cole said.

News

Demonstrators protest Keystone XL Pipeline at Caras Park



Volunteers construct a pipeline across the park, with a valve at the beginning to turn on the flow of "oil," represented by people dressed in black. PHOTOS CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

HANNA CAMPBELL

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People dressed in all black laid around a makeshift pipeline and repeated "Water is life," at Caras Park on March 6, in protest of the Keystone Pipeline construction.

Approximately 70 people gathered to protest the future construction of the Trans-Canada company's Keystone XL Pipeline, which will extend 1,661 miles. The pipeline will transport crude oil from Alberta, Canada, down through major midwest U.S. hubs, ending in Nebraska, according to the Global Energy Institute's website. However, the pipeline has been controversial because of its route through Indigenous lands and its potential to leak into drinking water as well as other environmental impacts.

During the protest, volunteers dressed as construction workers built a pipeline made of cardboard-like material over a hill at Caras Park. When the construction was complete, other volunteers dressed in all black laid on the grass surrounding the pipeline and created a human representation of an oil spill. The volunteers shouted and repeated several phrases during the demonstration, including "Shut it down," and "You can't eat money, and you can't drink oil."

Josh Decker, one of the event coordinators, said the protest was meant to represent the actions of the Trans-Canada Company.

"We are here to build pipelines through public space with impunity in the same way Trans-Canada will," Decker said.

Mikaila Kreiting, a University of Montana junior studying Environmental Studies, participated in the protest. She said that the protest was a way to raise community awareness for the problems the pipeline will create.

"We can't have climate justice without environmental justice," Kreiting said.

The protest was held last Friday due to a hearing in Great Falls that same day. The hearing concerned a lawsuit filed against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for issuing a permit to Trans-Canada to build the pipeline without a proper environmental impact investigation, according to a report done by the Great Falls Tribune.

The demonstration in Caras Park was meant to focus Missoula's attention on this problem, according to Leticia Romero, one of the event coordinators. She said the topic is very important to her as an Indigenous person, and everyone should be concerned about the issue.

"We are from the Earth, so if you feel that, then it should hurt you when your



University of Montana graduate Mario Batki, right, and sophomore Nicholas Shepard call out "Water is life," during a call-and-response chant. Batki and Shepard represented Sunrise Movement at the demonstration which, according to their website, is "...an army of young people [making] climate change an urgent priority across America."

land is getting hurt... Should we just stand aside and not do anything?" Romero said.

The Missoula mother said although the protesters may not make a difference to the Trans-Canada company, their goal

is to strengthen the community for the future. According to her, community is what will help the cause in the future.

There are no other planned future protests at this time.

A Higher Calling

A former UM student's barrier-breaking journey to become a pilot



As another pilot flies the plane, Madelyn Allovio stares at the Bitterroots.

Story and photos by Emma Smith

MADelyn ALLOVIO removed her left hand from the yoke and yelled through a small window, "All clear!" She rested her elbow near the ash trays that came stock in all the Cessna 172s.

The engine cranked, escalated and screamed as the Cessna built up speed down a cement runway. The plane eased into the sky like a bird and a perfectly clear view of the Bitterroots appeared through the cockpit. It was the first clear day Allovio has had in awhile.

"I just walked away thinking, 'I have to do that again,'" Allovio said. "It wasn't, 'I want to do that again, or that'd be cool to do again.' It was, 'I have to do that again.'"

Twenty-year-old Allovio flew for the first time in May of 2019. She booked a discovery flight with Bitterroot Aviation, which is something people can do to see whether or not they enjoy flying. After that flight, she knew she had to pursue aviation.

With women comprising fewer than 7% of all pilots, Allovio's journey faced headwinds. She felt passionate about spreading the word of God by flying, because God inspired her to follow aviation. She'd have to work harder than her mostly male co-workers, but that's what she decided to do after a life-changing trip to Africa, battling a major illness and after she had to learn to be comfortable with the label "college dropout."

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy spirit."

Matthew: 28:18:20

"I can't see myself doing anything other than this," Allovio said.

Her career goal wasn't always as clear as the Bitterroot view through the Cessna's cockpit windows.

Allovio originally came to the University of Montana in 2017 as a wildlife biology major from Dallas. She was raised as Baptist Christian and, although she no longer identifies with her church, she still practices her faith.

Within a few months, she became an active member of the Intersarsity Christian Fellowship at UM.

"I thought she was very energetic and bubbly. I've always thought that. I think that's what kinda captured me," said Jeremy Johnson, Intersarsity Christian Fellowship Team Leader, who goes by JJ.

Soon after she joined the group, she found the similar struggle that other students with an active faith see: there's other fun stuff to do in college. When she moved 1,500 miles away from home, she didn't have someone watching over her shoulder for the first time.



ABOVE: A view of Lolo Peak in the Bitterroots, which stand at 9,143 feet. "I fly planes over and through the Bitterroot mountains and the Mission mountains. The joy it gives me. It's just this feeling of belonging," said Allovio.

BELOW: Madelyn Allovio and flight instructor, Greg Eastwood, look down at the approaching runway in Missoula before Allovio lands.



Pastor Kiptum and Allovio joking around on her mission trip in Kenya. Allovio said Kiptum loved to make other people laugh, especially Allovio. MADELYN ALLOVIO | CONTRIBUTED

Allovio eventually stopped attending Intervarsity. She said her life kind of fell apart. She lost her connection to God and felt lost, so she went back. Soon after her return, J.J. mentioned a trip to Kenya. A trip he'd gone on as a student himself in 2011.

"I was like, 'Bro, you're lucky I'm even here,'" said Allovio.

Allovio had no desire to go to Kenya.

"I liked my little bubble and I didn't want to leave it. J.J. just harassed me, I mean, it got to the point where he'd look at me from across the room and he'd just raise his eyebrows and I'd be like, 'Leave me alone.' Finally, he just sat me down one day and was like, 'Madelyn, I'm serious. I know we joke about it, but I'm serious.'

"I went home and said, 'Okay, God. I will go to Kenya if you show me a sign, like Old Testament, biblical sign.'"

The next day, she wasn't having a good day. A friend had written out cards for her. One envelope said, "Open when you're lonely," the friend had put the wrong note in the envelope.

"I opened it and it said, 'God is gonna take you amazing

places...'. It's Matthew: 28:18:20. Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Spirit."

Annoyed, Allovio knew that letter was an unmistakable sign connecting back to the word, "Go," in the Great Commission, which many Christians believe to be an instruction from Jesus to his disciples to spread his teachings to all the nations in the world.

"As short as God coming out of the clouds and saying, 'Go to Kenya.' It's not gonna get much clearer than that. I pretty much went to J.J. a few days later and I was like, 'So tell me about this Kenya thing,'" Allovio said.

Allovio found herself on a mission trip to Nairobi, Cheptebo and Mumbosa, Kenya, for seven weeks during the summer of 2018. The first week, she learned about Kenyan culture, lifestyle and how to tell locals the words of God in a respectful way, avoiding the "white is right" mentality. In Cheptebo, Allovio lived on a farm development center in the Rift Valley. She described it as always smelling of animals and fresh fruit,

"a weird, beautiful combo."

While Allovio was in Kenya, she spent a day visiting African Inland Missions Air. AIM AIR's stated mission is to help reach those in rural areas and share the word of the Gospel to all of God's servants. It directs missionaries to places that are cut off due to civil war, or are unreachable during the rainy season. It also serves to drop supplies to places that are only reachable by plane.

During the day, four people operated the outpost. One of them, Lindsey Gray, had been a missionary since 2012 and a missionary pilot in Kenya since 2014.

"She changed how I viewed women in missions. I mean, wow, that girl. She was a young, single female serving on the mission field," Allovio said.

She said it's incredibly rare to find a young woman working as a missionary. Usually they're old and married. If a woman isn't old, she's certainly married. If she's young and single, it's like finding a needle in a haystack.

"Lindsey Gray is that pilot who brings aid to people, and



During the preflight check process, Madelyn Allovio looks at the fuel quantity in the fuel tank of the airplane. This is a series of safety steps to ensure the plane is in good shape before a flight.

missionaries to some of the most remote places in the world," said J.J. looking back on the day at AIM AIR. "It was really inspiring. For me as a man and for other women."

Allovio was completely awestruck when she met Gray. She went up, shook Gray's hand but couldn't find the words to explain what it meant to her. Growing up, she always felt discouraged about pursuing the missionary field because of her gender.

"Nobody blatantly tells you that, but it's the looks, it's the backhanded comments, 'Wouldn't you need a husband or wouldn't you feel more safe?'" Allovio said.

When Allovio was growing up, she described telling people at church she wanted to be a missionary, and many of the men were hesitant to give her their approval.

She never felt like she would be able to do it, until meeting Gray.

"Seeing her as the chief pilot, not only was she the missionary, she was the head missionary," Allovio said. "Damn it. Seeing that woman up there for me was just God saying, 'You can do this.' It wiped away years of doubt and insecurity and disbelief for me. It left me walking away saying, 'There is no doubt in my mind, I can be a missionary as a young, single female.'"

She came back to her group on a spiritual high. In the last week of the mission trip, Allovio stayed at St. Francis Spiritual Center outside of Nairobi. She woke up and did something she was warned not to do.

"The last week there, I was staying somewhere a little nicer than normal," Allovio said. "For the first time, the water came out clear, and I had a faucet in my room. I just wasn't thinking, and it was 6 a.m. and I was tired. I brushed my teeth with tap water and rinsed my mouth out. The whole nine yards, with tap water, out of the sink which is everything you cannot do."

Tap water in Kenya is not safe to drink, and tourists are told not to drink it unless it's been boiled or treated.

The next day, Allovio was sitting and listening to a Muslim guest speaker.

"Everything within me was purged. Everything. Anything good, anything bad. I had no immune system. I had no bacteria, good or bad. I had no gut," she said.

"Oh my god. I'm going to shit myself," she thought.

The feeling came out of nowhere and 24 hours later, a nurse confirmed a serious problem.

WOMEN IN AVIATION



7% of pilots are women

Allovio was treated with Cipro Amoxicillin, recommended by the nurse on the trip. The antibiotic purges the patient's entire system. Nurses later figured out that Allovio had likely contracted a parasite or bacteria.

"I wanted her home," said Cheryl Williams, Allovio's mom. "I work in the medical field. I just wanted her home. I wanted to be there. She kept saying, 'I'm okay.'"

Allovio came home still feeling terrible. Since she'd been travelling, she assumed her body needed time to adjust. When things didn't get better, she went to the doctor.

"He hears what happened, takes one look at me and goes, 'Uh, you still have that.' We're gonna do Cipro through an IV along with Flagyl."

Allovio says they "yeeted" her, because they were worried if they didn't kill whatever she had, it would come back resistant to the antibiotic.

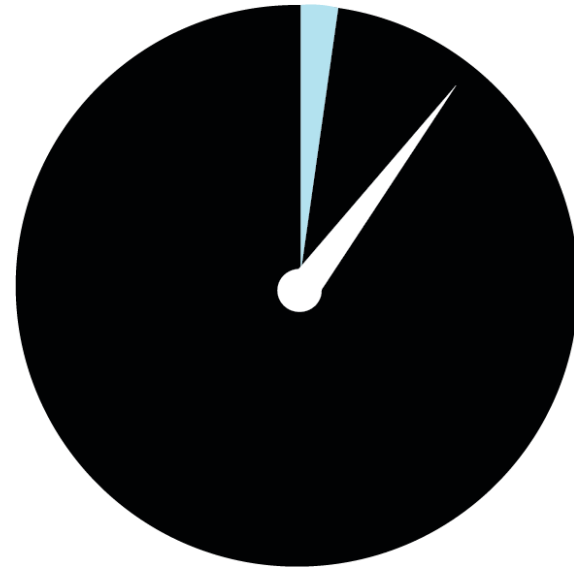
She sat in a chair similar to the one someone would sit in when they give blood. They began the process. Allovio came back the next two days. Two extreme antibiotics in a series of three treatments went through her body.

"Everything within me was purged. Everything. Anything good, anything bad. I had no immune system. I had no bacteria, good or bad. I had no gut," she said.

After Allovio finished her last treatment of Cipro and Flagyl, it was time to go back to school at the UM. She was still sick and slowly recovering.

Allovio began to feel better when school started, but then in October, despite it being some time since her last treatment, she started to feel sick again. She suffered from fevers, aches and chills. She'd go to Bible study, but didn't remember attending. It wasn't just physical pain; she still grieved for her grandfather, who helped raise her and had died a year prior. Both struggles compounded, and her education suffered.

"Who I am has changed. My goals have changed. My life



2% of airplane mechanics are women

Source: Lindsey Gray

has changed, but nothing around me has changed. I just came down off this spiritual high. I just wasn't going to succeed in a university setting," she said.

Days, weeks and months blended together for her. She continued to assure people she was OK, until she wasn't.

No one could pinpoint what was wrong with Allovio. Doctors told her if she didn't find a release from school, her body would eventually give out. She persisted until Thanksgiving break.

"Nobody in my life realized how sick I was until I was withdrawing from school," Allovio said.

Doctors didn't diagnose her with a specific illness. At one point, they believed she had Brucellosis, which is a bacteria someone can get from drinking unpasteurized milk. It was impossible to determine the cause of the symptoms, although they pointed to the bacteria that had been wiped out of her body. If she had any other illness, it simply fed off her weakened immune system.

"I pretty much got the equivalent of the Kenyan common cold or the common flu. We were so focused on that parasite. We treated it, we just didn't realize that some of those symptoms were also from a cold. That virus had a fucking playground."

She stayed in Arlington, Texas for two and a half months, withdrawing from school for medical reasons. Without the pressure of classes, she gradually recovered. And she stayed thankful for her entire experience in Kenya, which she said she'd do all again, including the months of illness.

"Between feeling at home serving as a missionary, seeing that I could do it, to me Kenya was life-changing ... God used this illness and all of it to teach and grow me and more importantly to put me on his path," she said.

Wanting a fresh start with UM, Allovio came back to school in January of 2019. But she still had an itch for the feeling that



Madelyn Allovio puts on mascara as she gets ready for the day. Growing up in the south, Allovio was taught to put on makeup but never let someone know you're wearing makeup.

Kenya brought her. She applied to South America Missions with a passion to follow her dream of being a missionary serving overseas. She was accepted in mid-February. The organization's only requirement before sending her overseas was that she attend Bible school.

By March, Allovio dropped out of UM. She enrolled at Yellowstone Theological Institute.

"My first instinct was to scream, and say, 'No!'" her mother said, but she came around. "She has a gift of when God speaks to her, she hears it and follows."

It was obvious that her family didn't approve of her decision to be a college dropout, a loaded stereotype. Allovio learned to understand that this decision was for her happiness only, and it didn't mean she was a failure. She began working as a customer service representative at Minuteman Aviation and going to Bible school. Minuteman Aviation opened her mind up to her forgotten childhood dream of flying airplanes.

"Once you sniff the jet fuel, you'll never get out."

She said being a pilot was a "pipe dream" growing up, sim-



Madelyn Allovio pulls the Cessna 172 out of the garage, where the plane is stored, and onto the runway before flying.

ilar to wanting to be an astronaut. After talking to her coworkers about it, Allovio booked a discovery flight with Bitterroot Aviation.

She totaled 45.3 hours into her pilot logbook on Feb. 13 and is just a few flights away from her private pilot's license with the help of her flight instructor, Greg Eastwood.

"She certainly seemed to enjoy it," Eastwood said of Allovio during her discovery flight. "She was ready to go and fly right then. It's boosting her confidence a lot, especially when she learned to land."

Every time Allovio flies, she's reminded of the disapproval and personal insecurity she had to overcome to reach the level of happiness she gets when she flies.

"Once you sniff the jet fuel, you'll never get out," a family friend who works in aviation told Allovio. After Allovio posted a photo of a jet on Facebook, the friend commented, "I see you've sniffed the fumes."

Allovio says when she goes days without flying, she feels off. Although the feeling of piloting a plane has changed since the first time, the passion and commitment is still there, as is the desire she feels toward her Christian faith.

"I find myself beaming with pride when someone asks me what she's doing," Williams said. "When she first told me about this, I was nervous and scared. I've realized I'm just so proud of her."

Despite being at her happiest, Allovio said there are many challenges to aviation.

While the job offers and business cards pile up in the hands of her male counterparts, she only sees a portion of that. The same goes for advice from veteran pilots.

She said many of her male coworkers haven't started flight school, but pilots come into Minuteman and approach her coworkers with assurances that they'll have a job once they're licenced. Allovio, however, has made it halfway through flight school.

"Where the fuck is my business card?" she said.

Allovio continues to fight for what inspires her. The experience that continues to drive her is that day at AIM AIR,

"There's very few women in aviation as a whole," said Gray, who is AIM AIR's Chief Pilot and a missionary since 2012. "And even fewer in missionary aviation. Statistically, industry wide, 7% of pilots are women."

Since Allovio's trip to Kenya, Gray continues to work for AIM AIR and was recently named chief. She lives in Nairobi, but flies all over East Africa. Her advice to Allovio is to stay persistent and work hard.

"I know in my heart of hearts, God has called me to be a force of the church," said Allovio. "God has made me bold and courageous and passionate for a reason. I don't really care if I'm male or female, God has instilled those things in me so I can serve him, regardless of my gender."

"Nobody thinks when you say, 'Yes' to following God, you're going to end up flying planes."

As Allovio walks through Bitterroot Aviation after her first flight in a few weeks, she scribbles down new hours in her logbook. She smiles and discusses how she needs to plan a time to study for her written exam. Awaiting a checkmark in her book are two solo cross-country and one night-solo cross-country flights. In just a week, she hopes to take her check flight that will give Allovio her private pilot's license. After that, she knows her future is somewhere else. Allovio stills dreams of working overseas, spreading the words that originally brought her on this journey of being a missionary pilot.



Screenshot from the website of "Return: Native American Women Reclaim Foodways for Health and Spirit." The film was shown at the Mansfield Library as a part of a traveling exhibition, focusing on Indigenous livelihood.

Native films reclaim Indigenous health practices

CLINT CONNORS

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Two films in the University Center Theater on March 6 discussed the importance of holding on to tradition to preserve Native American health.

"Never lose the old ways," Hilda Syrette of Batchewana First Nation said in the film "Gifts from the Elders." "Someday, you might have to go back."

The Missoula Urban Indian Health Center screened the movies for "Films for the Future: Reclaiming Ownership of Native Health."

The screening was used to promote the traveling exhibit "Native Voices: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness" at the Mansfield Library, said D'Shane Barnett, the center's executive director.

The exhibit, which will run until March 13, explores contemporary health concepts of Indigenous peoples, according to the exhibit's press packet.

Barnett said that using movies as a tool was not new to the center, which hosts the Indigenous Film Festival every year.

"We use film as medium to educate the community in a way that's engaging and interesting," he said. "People seem to like films. They're entertaining."

The films were followed by a panel discussion led by Rosalyn LaPier, Theda New Breast and Cherith Smith, who all have backgrounds in Native health.

"Gifts from the Elders" followed a group of Anishinaabe youth interviewing older members of the community to learn about the lifestyles they used to be healthy.

The interview process, according to the film, was an attempt to reconnect Native youth to their elders in the age of technology.

New Breast, a Native Wellness Institute board member, said that Native children were particularly susceptible to being addicted to their phones

due to their background of trauma.

She said, however, that anyone can abandon technology to reconnect to the world.

LaPier, an environmental studies associate professor at UM, said that the younger generation's fixation with technology can make it impractical to answer their health questions.

"Young people don't call you on the phone," she said. "So I've had very difficult texts."

The other film, "Return," focused on Native women attempting to rediscover their traditional food.

Karen Cantor, the director of "Return," said that she hoped the film delivered a sense of empowerment.

"It is possible to change," she said. "It will not only affect your waistline; it will also affect who you are."

Many traditional meals have been obscured through time, the movie showed, but were healthy alternatives to the food that is currently

offered to Indigenous communities.

Smith, a clinical assistant professor in pharmacy practice at UM, said that helping patients through diabetes could be difficult because they have often ignored their needs to feed their loved ones.

"We as Native people are not focused on ourselves, but our communities," she said.

Tomoko Torigoe, a world languages and cultures professor at UM, said that she wanted to know more about Native American culture and took notes throughout the event.

"I never really thought of the food problem or the diabetes problem before," she said. "It is a good opportunity for me to look back at my food habits."

Dave Beck, LaPier's husband, said he was inspired by the sense of hope the event provided.

"Even in these communities that have suffered, there are young people in those communities who are making a brighter future," he said.

Rock opera brings teenage pain to the stage

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"Listen to what's in the heart of a child, a song so big and one so small." Those are the words cast member Renee Ross sings in the song "Purple Summer" at the conclusion of UM theatre's production of "Spring Awakening." The rock opera brings the teenage trials of dealing with sexuality, grief and loneliness to the University's Masquer Theatre stage.

"Spring Awakening" is a late 19th-century play set at a German preparatory school. Among the trials the teenagers encounter is the lack of understanding shown to them by the headmasters and their parents. The idea of sex is especially looked down upon by the adults.

Wendla, played by Elle Fisher, wonders where babies come from and becomes interested in her body. Her mother refuses to teach her about sex, instead advising her to put on a proper dress and to stop asking questions. Fisher said playing the role of Wendla was not an easy task.

"It's pretty heavy shit that I have to go through in this show," Fisher said. "Being able to get to that place in a healthy way was probably the most difficult part."

Wendla eventually stumbles upon Melchior, an overconfident young man who claims he doesn't believe in anything. The two then fall into each other's arms, explore intimacy and question the morality of sex.

The second character who struggles through the norms of society is Melchior's friend Moritz, played by Stephen Jay Clement. The impressionable young student struggles with puberty and self-acceptance. Moritz's father, a prominent man who physically and verbally abuses the young student, doesn't help his case, claiming his son dishonors him.

Near the end of act two, a manic Moritz meets Ilse, played by Renee Ross. The young female student invites Moritz to enjoy life with her but the embattled young male refuses.



Moritz (Stephen Jay Clement) wisps a white sheet over Ilse (Renee Ross) in the second act. Ilse stumbles upon Moritz and invites him to enjoy life with her. When Ilse gathers the white sheet, she asks Moritz to follow her.



Wendla (Elle Fisher) sings after she finds out she is pregnant. Wendla's mother then instructs her daughter to follow a man in a dark coat off the stage.

Clement said it was difficult to play Moritz because the character is a troubled individual.

"I kind of went into it with the assumption, 'oh, I should be acting troubled,' but for me it was interesting to realize he doesn't always look that way from the outside," Clement said. "Throughout the course of the play, as he keeps getting stepped on, just finding ways to let that come out to the audience has been really interesting."

"Spring Awakening" features complex sensitive characters in vulnerable and intense scenarios. The director of the rock opera, John DeBoer, acknowledges this and said the performance needed to be handled with care.

"This has a lot of difficult content," DeBoer said. "Making sure actors stay safe during intimate stuff is important. Emotionally, physically, all of it."

"Spring Awakening will be performed at the Masquer Theatre March 4-6, and the 11-14 at 7:30 p.m. Additional showtimes will be March 7, 8 and the 15 at 2 p.m."



Students listen to the strict headmaster tell them about their role as men in the world. As the play progresses, the students gradually shed their preparatory school uniforms as an act of rebellion against the adult's idea of society. DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

'Odyssey of the Stars' honors local music legends Barbara and Judith Blegen

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As the young woman onscreen sang an effortless soprano melody, Judith Blegen began to cry quietly in her chair. Barbara Blegen, seated next to her, reached into her bag and offered her sister a tissue.

"I'll never be able to play that ever again without crying," Judith said afterward, laughing along with the audience in UM's Music Recital Hall.

It was a video of Judith's performance as Sophie from "Der Rosenkavalier," her favorite role of the 19 she portrayed during her years in the Metropolitan Opera.

The exchange was part of a week of celebrations leading up to the 20th annual "Odyssey of the Stars" on Saturday. Held to raise funds for UM performing arts scholarships, the ceremony honors individuals who have left their mark on Missoula's artistic legacy.

Judith sang over 200 times for the Metropolitan Opera and became a favorite guest on "The Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson.

Barbara attended the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music at age 15 on a full-ride piano scholarship and played on some of the world's biggest stages for decades.

But long before she accompanied the New York Philharmonic, Barbara's first lessons were taught by UM professor of piano George Hummel.

Her debut recital, at 11 years old, was on the stage of the UM Music Recital Hall in 1953, just after the Music Building was completed.

"Of course, I thought I was in college," Barbara said. "I was just thrilled by that building because it's shaped like a piano, and I thought, 'They built this for me!'"

Judith's talent was discovered when she joined her church's choir in seventh grade. Throughout high school, she took voice

lessons from then-UM voice department head John Lester.

At Thursday's convocation in the recital hall, the opera singer attributed her early success in music to her little sister.

"She was a prodigy, playing everything from memory before she was 11," Judith said, hand-in-hand with Barbara. "Where do you think I learned it from?"

Barbara lived in New York City for over 30 years, but when she decided it was time to retire in 2006, she said it was always her plan to move back to Missoula.

Though, maybe "retire" isn't the right word — nearly as soon as she unpacked, she called UM piano professor Steven Hesla.

"If anybody needs a pianist, I'm back," Barbara told him.

Since then, Barbara's accompanied choruses, master classes, recitals and more at the University. On Wednesday, she headlined a UM faculty concert with Hesla.

"Barbara is a rock of reliability and musicianship," Hesla said.

At the helm of the grand piano, Barbara played Rachmaninoff's "Suite No. 2, Op. 17" for the audience.

According to Barbara, the beauty of music isn't perfection, but the pursuit.

"The goal I had when I was 8 was the same one I have now: I want to be a pianist," she said. "It's always a work in progress."

Barbara's impact at the University has reached multiple departments over the last 14 years.

Anne Basinski, director of the UM Opera Theater, remembers her reaction to Barbara's offer to accompany her scenes: "Hallelujah."

"Barbara is my right arm," she said. "I absolutely couldn't do anything without her."

Basinski also has a special connection to Judith.



Barbara Blegen, Judith Blegen and Judith's husband, Raymond Gniewek, are introduced to an auditorium full of fans and students in the University of Montana Music Building on March 5. The Blegen sisters were raised in Missoula. Gniewek was the concertmaster of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra for 43 years and met and married Judith during that time. Judith was a soprano at the Met. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

"She was one of the wonderful singers I heard as a girl who got me interested in opera," she recalled.

Watching television broadcasts of Metropolitan Opera performances, Basinski said she was enchanted by Judith's poise, elegance and voice.

"She was absolutely perfectly suited to everything she did," Basinski said. "There's a seamlessness and beauty to her work."

Judith said the honor of the Odyssey was beyond compare, but there was an even better reason for her return to the mountains.

"I love to come back because my sister lives here, and she loves Missoula," she said.

Barbara agreed. "It's a perfect place to practice," she said, sitting beneath the wall of Odyssey honorees where two new plaques would soon hang. "People in Missoula love music. What could be better?"



Anne Basinski, director of the UM Opera Theater, speaks about Barbara and Judith Blegen and how much they mean to the UM music and arts community during the concert celebrating them during the 20th annual "Odyssey of the Stars" on Saturday, March 7. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

'The Invisible Man' addresses the not-so-invisible elephant in the room

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The first few months of 2020 sure have been a nightmare, huh? The last two months have done their best to remind us to keep our optimism in check. We've shouldered celebrity deaths, volcanic eruptions, Australian bushfires and an international pandemic.

Leave it to the first big-hit horror movie of the year, then, to capitalize on a more insidious failure of society that's finally receiving the spotlight it rightly deserves.

"The Invisible Man" stars a riveting Elisabeth Moss as Cecilia Kass, a woman forced to confront her abusive ex-boyfriend, optics genius Adrian Griffin, after he fakes his death and returns as an invisible tormentor determined to tear Kass away from everyone she loves.

Moss's performance is the glue that keeps "The Invisible Man" from falling apart under its own ambition. She commands her time on-screen; impressive, given that for most of it, she's acting with no one else. In one scene, she talks to an empty doorway and somehow out-performs 95% of other horror movie stars.

The genius of director Leigh Whannell — horror writer for films like "Saw" and "Insidious" — is in the camera. In the immersive spirit of "1917" he litters the film with long takes. The twist, though, is where the camera decides to linger. Shots pan away from Cecilia unexpectedly or pause in a room after she leaves. The camera is the only "character" that can see Adrian, and it's chillingly effective at building tension.

But the real triumph of "The Invisible Man" isn't the style, it's the substance.

The titular monster is horrifying because it's one we've seen over and over again, in the media and our personal lives.

The #MeToo movement first rose to prominence in 2017 in a cultural explosion that exposed, among other things, the true scope of sexual violence and harassment against women in the United States. Since then, we've watched countless men in positions of authority fall from grace as their histories of discrimination and abuse were



MEDIUM.COM | CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

exposed.

In "The Invisible Man," Adrian is a master manipulator. With wealth and power on his side, he systematically cuts Cecilia off from everyone she cares about and taunts her with his influence. Then, he turns invisible and redoubles his efforts.

Just like we've seen play out in so many recent examples — Kavanaugh, Weinstein, Spacey — doubt is cast on Cecilia's story and her trauma.

"Listen to me," she begs her friends, the police. No one does. Not until her abuser threatens their own lives.

The downside to the extended metaphor is that it sometimes loses itself in typical horror tropes. In such a powerful, cautionary tale for our times, it's disappointing to see the film glorify Adrian's power for the sake of an eye-catching fight scene, or pull a Scooby-Doo plot-twist in a halfhearted attempt at a "gotcha" moment.

A movie with this kind of message doesn't need "gotchas," it needs razor-sharp focus and careful delivery to ensure the point stays clear.

Fortunately, three quarters of "The Invisible Man" is brilliant. Clever camerawork, pulse-quickening sound design and, above all, Moss's performance will ensure Whannell's third film a place in the horror hall of fame.

It's the final quarter that will either leave

you pumping your fist or feeling strangely empty.

We shouldn't need the physical and psychological terrorism of evil men to take the

shape of a classic horror movie monster to teach us to listen to women. But "The Invisible Man" makes sure it's a lesson we won't soon forget.

2-4 pm Party

THE MANSFIELDS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
MANSFIELD CENTER

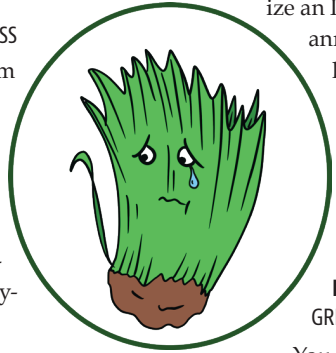
MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD LIBRARY 4TH FLOOR
GAMES, CUPCAKES, & MORE!

It's not easy bein' green

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, you might have been feeling a little green lately. But what kind of green are you? Are you sick? Are you envious? Are you a sadistic giant who sells pees? Let's find out.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): GRASS

Don't take that letter from your parents the wrong way. We're sure they're not completely disappointed in you for majoring in psychology. Sure, they said, "watching you grow has been super boring," but that could mean anything.



get sprayed with that thing. If only.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): FOUR-LEAF CLOVER

Good luck lies ahead of you. Or, you're simply a superstition being used to commercialize an Irish holiday in a society where annual celebrations like this have lost their original purpose because the billionaires in Silicon Valley haven't bought any private jets in the last 10 seconds. You know, one of those things.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): GREEN EGGS AND HAM

You will not work in your dorm.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): KERMIT THE FROG

Here's some piping hot tea for you: dating the over-emotional performer might not be conducive to a stable relationship. But that's none of our business. Love the banjo though.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): MARIJUANA

Woah, man. Just...just...just chill out, alright? Relax. Sit down and ponder life's deepest questions. Like, what would happen if we put ping pong balls on our toast instead of butter? Do you know how crazy that would be?

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): GREEN M&MS

Need some spice for your love life? Maybe it's time to test out that urban legend, err, discovery that green M&Ms can maximize your sex drive. Contact your doctor if they cause you dizziness, bladder problems or an erection lasting more than four hours.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): SHREK

People just don't get you. Sure, you might be in a few too many fanfictions and a little too eager to kick people out of your house, but deep down, you have layers. Just like...like, um...that one vegetable. We're blanking.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): GARDEN HOSE

There are a lot of tempting metaphors here, but it's unclear how our editors would feel. If only we could write about how long your hose is. Or how you could have it checked if it's dysfunctional. Or how we sure wouldn't want to

You will not work where it's warm. You will not work at a desk. You will not work in the West. Procrastination makes you cram. Just do your homework, Sam I Am.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): MONEY

Let's see. You've got some of the most respected presidents in our country's history... and Andrew Jackson. And you've also got... wait. Is that the Illuminati symbol? Uh oh.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): MOUNTAIN DEW

That pickup truck is a good look for you. With a sexy motor like that, you'd be right at home in a Blake Shelton music video. Or how about one of those Christmas TV movies where you move from the city to a Christmas tree farm and discover what really matters in life?

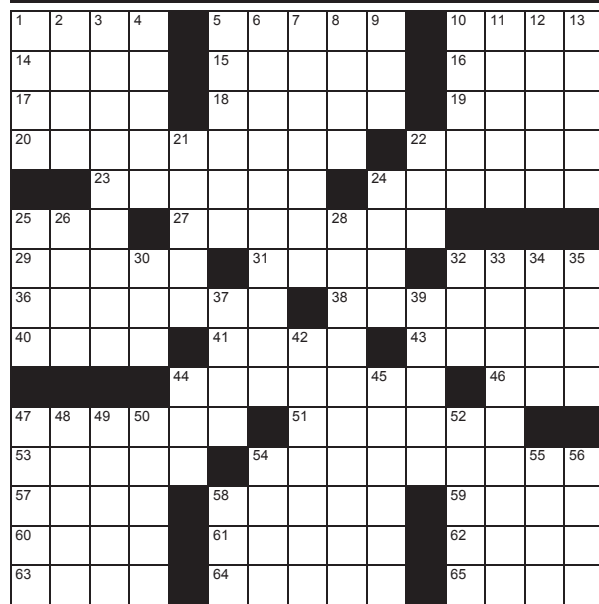
CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): GREEN DAY

I'm sorry but you've got to wake up. September ended quite a while ago. Now, quit being a basket case, pack your 21 guns, and keep on traveling down the only road that you have ever known. Good riddance.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): THE JOLLY GREEN GIANT

Is watching low-wage farmers do your bidding while you shout a synonym for "slut" three times in a row really how you get your sick kicks? Get a hobby. Try a sport. Do anything else!

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Draws a bead on
- 5 Pottery fragment
- 10 Diplomat's skill
- 14 Like some champagne
- 15 Just not done
- 16 Cream additive
- 17 Nastiness
- 18 Join forces
- 19 Building near a silo
- 20 Way to sit on a horse or bike
- 22 Stuff to the gills
- 23 Eventually
- 24 "Bein' Green" singer
- 25 Having a lot to lose?
- 27 Hammer slantingly
- 29 Upscale Honda
- 31 Fender bender result
- 32 Professional org.
- 36 Experience
- 38 Take down a peg
- 40 Have to have
- 41 Out of whack
- 43 Kind of nerve
- 44 Apple cider
- 46 Aggravate
- 47 Bagpiper's wear
- 51 ___-than-life
- 53 On the lookout
- 54 Subject of the 2018 film "Hotel Mumbai"
- 57 Like some reviews
- 58 Cat Steven's train
- 59 Berry in some smoothies
- 60 Sign of foreboding
- 61 Desert refuge
- 62 What the Lusitania did
- 63 Rattled out
- 64 Pick up the tab for
- 65 Choice word
- 25 Woodland deity
- 26 High school breakout
- 28 "When a Man Loves a Woman" actor
- 30 Wine choice
- 32 High peak
- 33 Like some SNL skits
- 34 Excitement
- 35 Bottle top
- 37 Investor's hope
- 39 Do without
- 42 Software version
- 44 Port vessel
- 45 Rap sheet listing
- 47 Gypsy's deck
- 48 San Antonio landmark
- 49 Whoop it up
- 50 What's hot
- 52 Wipe clean
- 54 Streak on a cheek
- 55 ___ serif
- 56 Spoken letter before November
- 58 Winner's take

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:



Spring break & St. Patrick's— time to celebrate

Wednesday 11

"SPRING AWAKENING"

It's the second week of Tony-award winning musical "Spring Awakening" from the School of Theatre and Dance in co-production with the School of Music. Popular for themes of sexuality, repression, adolescence and violence, this rock n'roll musical is selling tickets for students starting at \$12. The show runs normal night performances from March 11 to 14, with a 2 p.m. matinee performance March 26. *Masquer Theatre, 7:30 p.m.*

UMCD DUCK BIRTHDAY PARTY

Our feathered friends, the Food Zoo ducks, are turning 2 years old! Join UMCD in the Food Zoo for birthday lunch. The ducks will be attending via FaceTime. Adorable. *Food Zoo, 11 a.m.*

"THE SPITFIRE GRILL"

The Missoula Community Theatre presents the American folk musical "The Spitfire Grill." Tickets are still available and can be purchased at mctinc.org *MCT Center for the Performing Arts, 7:30 p.m.*

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CAREER FAIR

Free and open to all UM students, the industrial technology career fair is a chance for students, prospective students and alumni to connect with potential employers. Learn about internships, part-time, summer and full-time positions. Those seeking employment in diesel technology, heavy equipment operation, precision machine technology and welding are encouraged to attend. *Missoula College, West Campus 11 a.m.*

'90S POP CULTURE TRIVIA

It's all '90s at Highlander Beer's '90s POP Trivia night. Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place. Show up in your best '90s inspired outfit and get \$1 off your first beer. *Highlander Beer, 6 p.m.*

Thursday 12

40TH ANNIVERSARY JAZZ FESTIVAL

Featuring international jazz artists as well as 50 northwestern middle school, high school and college bands, the University of Montana Jazz Program is celebrating the 40th year of the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival. The festival lasts two days, Thursday and Friday, and includes daytime activities, masterclasses and performances. *Dennison Theatre, All Day*

CAMPUS TAI CHI

Staff Senate and Campus Tai Chi club are sponsoring Tai Chi for all UM Students, employees, family and friends. This pilot program will take place every Tuesday and Friday until mid-April. No special training is required and participants are empowered to attend in Street clothes. *Payne Family Native American Center, 12:10 p.m.*

ST PATRICK'S POTTERY SPECIAL

The Zacc PYOP is so excited for St. Patty's that they're giving you a free drink (of up to \$5 value to 21+) when you paint your (St) Pottery! This event is two days, Friday and Saturday, and all day, from open to close. *ZACC, 10 a.m.*

Saturday 14

RUN FOR THE LUCK OF IT!

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Run Wild Missoula. This event offers a 7 Mile Race, 5K Race and a Kids Dash. There will be a post-race celebration with food and drink. *Bonner Park, 8 a.m.*

ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

The annual parade kicks off from North Higgins and goes to Grizzly Grocery on Beckwith and Higgins. *North Higgins, noon.*

GREAT IRISH GATHERING AND BANQUET

The Friends of Irish Studies Great Irish Gathering, Banquet and Auction will be held at the Holiday Inn Missoula Downtown. This is the main fundraiser for the Irish Studies Program and associated cultural groups. Dinner tickets cost \$30. *Holiday Inn 6 p.m.*

Sunday 15

BOY NAMED BANJO

Logjam Presents is welcoming bluegrass band Boy Named Banjo for a live concert performance at the Top Hat. Standing room only, and all ages welcome. *Top Hat, 7:30 p.m.*

Monday 16

SPRING BREAK

FINALLY. First day of spring break at UM campus. Leave for the week or enjoy Missoula in the peace of no classes, but make sure to soak in some sun!

CUBAN MODERN DANCE INTENSIVE

This intensive introduces dancers to the basics of the Cuban Modern Technique

taught by Bruno Augusto. Ideal for those with previous dance/movement training looking to be challenged. Students are highly encouraged to participate all week for \$150, but \$30 daily tickets are available as well. Students should be 18+ unless previously approved. *West Side Theatre, 9 a.m.*

Tuesday 17

"WHO AM I? SORTING OUT AMERICAN IDENTITY"

Associate Professor of Sociology Kathy Kuipers presents "Who am I? Sorting Out American Identity" as part of the UM Alumni Association's Community Lecture Series, "Honoring the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and What it Means to Be an American." Tickets for \$10 will be available at the door. *UC Theater, 7 p.m.*

Want your voice heard?

Run for Student Government!

Election Forms Now Available

Upcoming Info Sessions:
 2nd Info Session March 12th @ 3:30 pm
 3rd Info Session March 24th @ 11 am

GrizFanPod brings humor to UM sports, but it's NOT media

JACK MARSHALL

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In late February, I got so bored that I listened to a podcast that featured three men who only talk about UM sports. In early March, I found myself sitting at a stranger's dining table talking with the founders of GrizFanPod.

I was the one who reached out to write a story about these guys. I was curious about how one could talk about the Griz for up to three hours at a time. After I listened to an episode late one night, I decided I should reach out to these podcasters to see exactly what was going through their heads.

"You're just going to need to be prepared for extra scrutiny in your legal review process," one of the founders, Mike Nugent, told me via Twitter direct message. "We can't be held responsible for what we say."

We set up an interview on a Friday afternoon at Nugent's house.

Two days later, I received another Twitter direct message that Wahlberg had gotten "not the man flu, or the post-Disneyland family vacation flu, but evidently the legitimate flu."

While we were finding a new time to reschedule the interview, I mentioned I wouldn't mind being a guest on the actual podcast. The guys quickly accepted my offer, something I was later thankful for.

On March 4, I pulled up to a house in a quiet Missoula neighborhood prepared to walk into a cool sound studio and record a professional podcast. I was greeted at the door by a more-than-excited golden retriever and a smiling Nugent.

Nugent led me around the corner to his dining room, the recording location of the GrizFanPod. Brint Wahlberg and Luke Alford arrived soon after



Montana Kaimin reporter Jack Marshall shows off a digital camera he picked up at a thrift shop while talking about outdated technology on the Griz fan podcast. Marshall joined Mike Nugent, Brent Wahlberg and Luke Alford Wednesday and talked about topics ranging from Griz Athletics, journalism, jazz music, Wahlberg's secret love for the Frozen 2 soundtrack and Nugent's love for Taylor Swift. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

me with enough beer to get the trio through the podcast.

I made a joke about the length of the last three-hour GrizFanPod, and I was assured that this podcast wasn't going to last that long.

After Nugent's son James recorded his signature introduction to the podcast, we were on our way. I introduced myself and was quickly asked, "When you got hired on at the Kaimin to do Griz sports, did they give you a coach Bobby Hauck primer?"

I realized these guys weren't reporters at a press conference. In fact, they made the distinction that they were anything but the media.

After I answered a few questions about my thoughts on Griz football, we quickly began sharing our opinions about spring football and what we noticed at the last practice.

After talking about UM football and some other sports for a bit, we dove into my favorite part of the podcast — listener questions.

Our first question was perhaps the most perplexing. A listener asked whether we'd rather fight 100 squirrel-sized horses or one horse-sized squirrel. After a little debate, we came to the conclusion that we would definitely rather fight the mini horses.

The second part of this question

threw a wrench in our decision, as the listener stated that if we choose to fight the large squirrel, UM football would win a national championship. After laughing a lot, we really didn't come to any conclusion.

Someone also asked on Twitter about whether jazz music was making a comeback, which led to a surprisingly long argument among the hosts.

Alford then asked us all what our "guilty pleasure" song was, provoking Wahlberg to state, "I have to tell you man, the Frozen 2 soundtrack slaps."

After we asked one another a few more questions, we end-

ed the podcast with a time of two hours and 20 minutes.

When I first agreed to go on the GrizFanPod, I was expecting some stale analysis of UM sports. Instead, I laughed and joked with some dedicated Griz fans as they drank the night away.

I also thought I was going to run into some guys who looked at too many stats and micromanaged UM athletics. Instead, I met some really cool guys who I'd love to watch a Griz game with.

The GrizFanPod podcast can be found on Montana Mint Sports and was released on March 5.

Missoula Bike Polo pedals across UM parking garage

DANTE FILPULA ANKNEY

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Four men clenched their bike gears and jerked forward to a stop on a recent Sunday. They clenched their brakes as they pursued a smooth, hard tennis-sized ball, striking their mallets against the concrete. Wind weaved through concrete pillars and whistled past empty parking lots in the lone UM parking garage directly below the "M" trail.

This is where Edward Francis, Mitchell Whitener, Jeremy Haas and Dave Tenney, four members of Missoula Bike Polo, meet on Sundays to play the sport. In its simplest form, bike polo involves riding a bike and swinging a mallet to hit a ball toward a small goal.

"It's basically hockey on bikes," Francis said.

Missoula Bike Polo started in a parking lot in Missoula. The original group of members discovered the game on the internet and decided to start playing because it looked fun. Initially, the group recruited players with a Craigslist post, but currently they rely solely on word of mouth to gain new players.

Francis, a self-proclaimed "fish monger," works as a seafood distributor in town. He's been playing bike polo for eight years. He rides his bike clad in armor and shin pads. The pads have chipped silver spray paint from many games and falls.

"I wear more armor than everyone else, but it is also because I crash more," Francis said.

Whitener works as a delivery driver and has been playing

for seven years. Although he is burlier than the rest of the men, he is nimble on a bike and turns in quick maneuvers, weaving among the other players.

Haas works as a seaman and has played bike polo for 11 years. He is the only player out of the four who witnessed the start of Missoula Bike Polo.

Tenney is currently unemployed and has been playing for three years. Yarn is tangled throughout the spokes of his front bike tire and his ponytail sticks out of the back of his helmet and bounces as he pedals.

Even though they have responsibilities, the group tries to make it to campus for bike polo on Sundays

year-round. But they usually don't succeed at meeting weekly as it can be tough to rally people in the winter. Whitener said they are not as hardcore as they once were.

"I started playing in January and I would be hauling ass through snow to get here," Francis said.

Francis said they had to implement a double digit rule, meaning they would only play when the temperature was in the double digits. Whitener and Francis said they used to break balls and bikes due to the temperature when they played on ice patches.

Currently there are eight active participants in Missoula Bike Polo and it is rare for players

to field a full game. They need three people on each team to play a true game, but they improvise when fewer people show up.

Francis said it hasn't always been this way. In the summer of 2014 the group typically had two games going on at once. Francis said people waited on the sides of the court to play, and there were usually around 20 spectators.

"That was just a beautiful summer," Francis said.

The group has been kicked out of parking lots in the past, but have found a reliable court on the second level of the UM parking garage. According to both Francis and Whitener, security personnel stop by from time to time

to say hello. They said a UMPD officer once asked them what they were doing and after they told him about the sport, the officer told them to be safe.

"This is the only place we have never been told to leave," Whitener said. "So here we are."

After the third game, the group threw their mallets into the middle of the court and removed their helmets. Their foreheads were gleaming from sweat as they sat against the concrete walls of the parking garage.

When a curious onlooker asked what keeps them returning to this parking garage to play bike polo, the group members' eyes bounced around the group.

Brady Berthelson reaches for the ball with his mallet during a pick-up game of bike-polo, late afternoon Saturday, Feb. 22. The group usually plays on the second floor of the parking garage outside the Mansfield Library on the University of Montana campus, late-afternoon Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020. Berthelson and his fellow riders have gathered for bike polo matches in Missoula since 2010.

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN



UM lacrosse eyes first 2020 top-10 ranked win in Georgia

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The University of Montana lacrosse team lost to St. John's University March 1 by one goal in the final 30 seconds. The defeat sent Montana's record to 4-3, but the team still jumped up to ninth place in the Division II MCLA league.

"This year is quite a difficult schedule and I'm very pleased about how we've fared so far," said head coach Tucker Sargent. "Maybe that's why we are the only team in the top 10 with three losses."

The 2020 lacrosse season includes at least four games against top 10 schools, three of which the Griz have played and lost to so far. Minnesota Duluth, St Thomas University and St. John's ranked first, second and seventh, respectively.

Will Smyth, a freshman midfielder, said he got used to the high level of competition quickly. The first-year player has scored six goals and had four assists during the team's first month of the season. He said he was surprised to see how the Griz could compete with the best divisional teams.

"Everything is new to me, but I didn't think they were that good," Smyth said. "I expect them to be better considering some teams were eight places better than us."

Smyth and the Griz do not have to wait long for another high-level test.

Over spring break, Griz lacrosse will travel to play Kennesaw State, which ranks just ahead of the team at eighth place. The competition is a part of a three road stint in Georgia and Tennessee, and this is the first time the team will travel to the southeastern United States.

Sargent was excited for the change of weather in the South. According to *weather-us.com*, the average high in

Kennesaw, Georgia is 65 degrees.

Sophomore Sean Anderson also looks forward to the good weather.

"I'm very excited to go. Hopefully I get some color," Anderson said. "I also think this will be a good bonding trip for the team."

At the end of February, the MCLA named Anderson one of two players of the month, an award open to all division levels. The other winner, South Carolina's Derek Isaac, is a former national champion who helped his team move to an 8-0 start in 2020.

Anderson averages 2.4 goals and one assist per game.

"We are playing two really good opponents, but I'm just excited to play new teams in a new place I have never been before," said senior Aidan Larson.

Larson, a four-year lacrosse veteran, has scored nine goals for the Griz during his final season. Though Montana couldn't win against St John's, he was proud of how the team worked together to create more goal-scoring opportunities.

"Overall, we are just getting chemistry down," Larson said. "It's tough to lose a game, but keeping our goals in mind, one of which is beating Montana State, is how we will be a success."

Though the Griz and the Cats have historically been in the same conference, the Big Sky Conference does not cover lacrosse. Instead, Montana competes against schools that are part of the Pacific North Coast Lacrosse League, based on the west coast.

Out of all the Big Sky schools, only Montana, Montana State and Northern Arizona rank in the top 25.

The Bobcats are ranked 14th as of March 6, and Griz lacrosse plans to play them in Bozeman on April 3.



TOP: University of Montana senior attackman Aidan Larson celebrates after scoring a goal in the fourth quarter against St. John's on March 1st. BOTTOM: University of Montana faceoff specialist Luke Johnson faces St. John's University middle Mason Lowell on March 1st in Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The Johnnies won 13-12. LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM long snapper anticipates career in law enforcement

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Three UM football players were recognized Dec. 19, 2019 on the prestigious STATS All-American team list, which feature the best football players in the FCS.

UM's star linebacker Dante Olson and receiver Samori Toure made the list, but UM head coach Bobby Hauck was surprised by a different player.

"I didn't know that there was such a thing as an All-American (long) snapper," Hauck said. "To find out we actually had that guy was doubly- thrilling."

Hauck was referring to UM red-shirt senior Matthew O'Donoghue, who was named the best long snapper in the FCS in December. A long snapper's job is to snap the ball on punts and field goals, so the average fan may not notice them in a game.

But when the punt unit comes on the field for the Griz, O'Donoghue sprints onto the field as if he were shot out of a cannon.

"I think my dad would be pretty pissed if I was jogging around out there," O'Donoghue said. "He always preached hustle." Many fans and teammates refer to him as "OD" or "First Team All-American Matthew O'Donoghue."

Despite being named one of the nation's best long snappers, the California native doesn't plan on becoming a pro football player. Influenced by his uncle, O'Donoghue plans on enrolling in a police academy after graduation.

"I think he'll be good at whatever he decides to do and if law enforcement is where he decides to go, I think he'll be tremendous," Hauck said

O'Donoghue has already done some ride-alongs with officers from the Lakewood police department in California. He was originally a business major at UM, but he said when he was too bored by the classes, he decided to become a communications major.



University of Montana longsnapper Matthew O'Donoghue smiles after football practice. A longsnapper is a specialist position in which the player passes the ball backwards at a start of a play over a longer distance, typically around 8 to 15 yards. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

O'Donoghue is on pace to graduate from UM with a degree in communications in 2020, with one year of football eligibility remaining.

Even though he was already named the best long snapper in his division, O'Donoghue isn't planning on slowing down anytime soon. He always hits the field early to practice his snaps with the other members of the UM special teams unit.

"He's one of the hardest working guys on the team," said UM linebacker Patrick O'Connell.

O'Connell and O'Donoghue often golf together in their free time, but neither of them could name who has

won the most games. Hauck has never golfed with the two, but he said he was certain who would win if he did.

"I don't think either one of them could beat me at anything," Hauck said.

O'Donoghue also competes with his teammates in basketball at UM's rec center. "Don't challenge daddy again," he joked in a caption for a video on his Twitter account. In the video, he scores on teammate Skyler Martin after doing a dream shake move.

O'Donoghue initially came to UM after graduating from Foothills High School in Santa Ana, California. He was on the All-League football team in 2015, but UM

was the only school that offered him.

He walked on to the team in 2016, redshirted for a year and then became UM's starting long snapper in 2017. He has played a total of 33 games for the Griz and has registered two tackles and a fumble recovery.

He has also caught two passes for UM on two-point conversion attempts. He acknowledged that before his first catch in 2018, he had never caught a pass in a game.

O'Donoghue said that when he leaves UM after the 2020 football season, he wants to be known "just as a good all-around guy in the community."

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