

MONTANA KAIMIN

The art of resistance

Elijah Jalil's protest through music

Story by Meghan Jonas

Photos by Sara Diggins



Volume 126 Issue No. 5,
September 16, 2020

Cover photo
Sara Diggins



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

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Erin Sargent

BUSINESS MANAGER
Cassandra Williams

SPORTS EDITOR
Jack Marshall

NEWS EDITOR
Mazana Boerboom

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Alex Miller

FEATURES EDITOR
Addie Slanger

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Claire Shinner

DESIGN EDITOR
Daylin Scott

DIGITAL EDITOR
Sara Diggins

NEWSROOM STAFF

NEWS REPORTERS
Hanna Campbell
Isabella Butler
Griffen Smith
Nikki Zambon
Jacob Owens

SPORTS REPORTERS
Mariah Thomas
John Paul Edge

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS
Noelle Annonen
James Bradley
Clint Connors
Meghan Jonas

COPY CHIEF
Andrea Halland

COPY EDITORS
Zandria DuPuis
Alicia McAlpine

MULTIMEDIA STAFF
Hazel Cramer
Liam McCollum
Nick Mills
Emma Smith
Alexis Schroeder
Walter Medcraft
Matt Tryan
Zach Meyer

DESIGNERS
Constance Darlington
Natalie Brancaccio
Colton Rothwell

CARTOONIST
Cooper Malin

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
Abigail Stone

ADVISERS
Tammy Kim
Jason Begay

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Montana Kaimin



@montanakaimin



@MontanaKaimin

For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact editor@montanakaimin.com or call (406) 243-4310.

For advertising opportunities, contact ads@montanakaimin.com or call (406) 243-6541.

CLASSIFIEDS

Sussex School seeks substitute teachers for K-8 classes. Applicants should have experience working with children through teaching, childcare, or summer camps. Pay is \$13/hr and hours are flexible, some substitute teaching jobs are advance notice. Please see our website (sussexschool.org) to learn about our progressive education model. Contact Christy at christy@sussexschool.org to apply. Resume and 3 references required.

EDITORIAL

It’s okay to give yourself some grace

We know the trope “we’re living in unprecedented times” is getting kind of old, but it’s still true. We’re in this weird limbo between the Zoom class eye-strain and in-person classes where we all sit six-feet apart and try not to touch our masks too much. And then we’re expected to social distance and be responsible and keep our community safe so someone’s grandma doesn’t die. It’s serious stuff.

The world feels like it’s crumbling around us between the massive forest fires, a global pandemic and ever-growing tension between the left and the right. The news is everywhere we look, and it’s a constant reminder of everything bad that’s happening. Trust us, we get it, the news is our whole lives and sometimes it’s pretty depressing.

So it makes sense if our mental and physical health is suffering — and in conjunction, our schoolwork. It’s so easy to fall behind in school when stress is weighing you down.

To quote the Centers for Disease Control, “You may experience increased stress during this pandemic. Fear and anxiety can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions.”

Pretty on-the-nose we’d say.

So yeah, the world is overwhelming. But it’s important to remember it’s overwhelming for everyone. You aren’t alone. You can ask for help, whether it’s from counseling or asking for an extension on a deadline when you’re at a mental breaking point.

The Curry Health Center counseling is a great place to start. Right now they’re offering

socially-distanced approved tele-counseling and Zoom counseling sessions. The first session of each semester is free and after that it’s \$25 each time. They also have crisis counseling, which you can reach at 406-243-4712 during office hours, or at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) after hours.

Even if you don’t want to try counseling, there are other free services on campus to help with stress. The Wellness Center offers a COVID-19 specific virtual stress busting kit, as well as virtual health coaching and mindfulness meditations.

The point is, you don’t need to suffer alone or pretend like you’re fine. We’re not fine. And that’s okay. We’re all stressed as hell and just trying to do our best, and sometimes

our best isn’t as good as it used to be. That doesn’t mean there’s something wrong with us. It means we’re people with emotions and fears and flaws who are going through an immense amount of change.

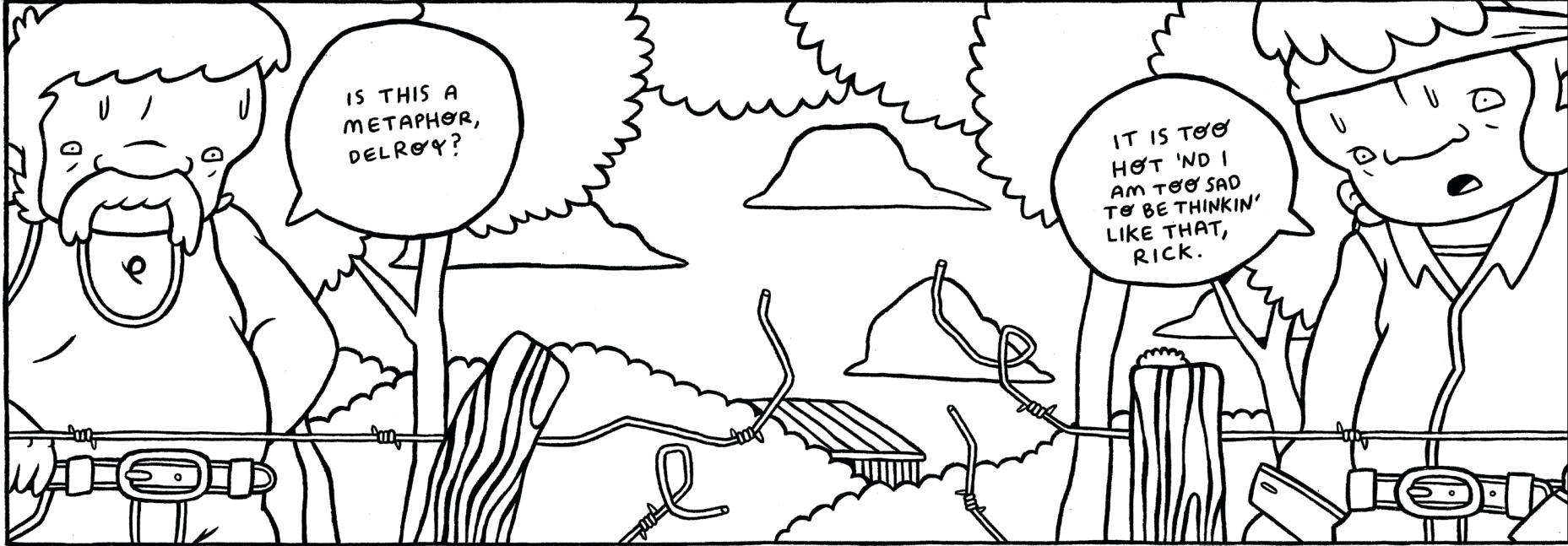
Just remember, we are all humans first and foremost. Give yourself some grace when you’re struggling and ask for help when you need it. Being a student should come after being a happy, healthy human.

If it means anything, we’re proud of you for making it this far, and if it weren’t for COVID we’d totally offer a hug.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COMIC



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

ICYMI

(In case you missed it)

Fraternity SAE is making a comeback after finances shut its house down last year:



Soft Landing Missoula is bringing Welcoming Week to town:



Our resident movie critic finally got to return to theaters! It was an experience:



Peep our new digital column, “NSFK,” where we ruin your childhood classics. This week, Mr. Potato Head:



SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

Copyright 2020 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

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

COVID-19 numbers, wildfires and business certificates

COVID-19 NUMBERS IN MONTANA

Total Montana cases are up nearly 800 in a week, as of Monday, while total active cases are up by nearly 200. Missoula County also reported six more active cases than the week before. As of Monday, UM numbers haven't been updated on the health department's dashboard since they were released Wednesday, Sept. 9, with six total positive since early August and three total active. Over 9,100 Montana cases have been reported since the start of the pandemic, with about 600 people recovered in the past week. Hospitalization rates have stopped rising, with over 140 statewide, nearly 20 fewer than last week. In Missoula County, three people have died since the start of the pandemic, with no new deaths in the last couple of weeks. Statewide there have been 138 deaths, 20 in the last week. (Mazana Boerboom, Griffen Smith)

DEADLY FIRES SHROUD THE WEST IN SMOKE

Wildfires continued to burn through the

West Coast and parts of Montana over the last week. According to New York Times reporting, more than two dozen people have died in the fires and tens of thousands have been forced out of their homes into the thick smoke that shrouds most of the Western United States. The smoke blew into Missoula with force over the weekend, with air quality moving from "good" on Saturday to "unhealthy" by Monday. In "unhealthy" air quality conditions people are discouraged from outdoor physical exertion. Thompson Falls, Montana, was "very unhealthy" and Libby, Montana, was "hazardous" as of Monday. The Missoula Health Department website releases updates on air quality predictions and guidelines almost every day. Hourly updates can be found on the Montana Department of Environmental Quality website. (MB)

UM FORMS NEW BUSINESS CERTIFICATE

The UM College of Business is offering a business certificate starting this year. This program was made to help the certificate participants become more marketable to employers by gaining knowledge of business practices. According to UM's website, the certificate program lasts approximately two semesters. Anyone can register for it, including current and graduated UM students as well as community members. They must have completed at least 60 credits, however, and passed with a C- in the five required classes, which accumulates to 15 credits. Students can sign up or inquire for further information at The Gianchetta Student Success Center in the Gallagher Business Building. (Hanna Campbell)

WEEKEND HOSTAGE SITUATION LEAVES ONE DEAD

The Missoula Police Department responded to a home in the Pleasant View neighborhood Saturday for a potential hostage situation. According to a press release from public information officer Sgt. Travis Welsh, officers responded to indirect information that a man assaulted a woman in a home on the 2900 block. The woman was potentially being held against her will under threat of a firearm. Early attempts to make contact were unsuccessful, which led to the MPD SWAT Team and hostage negotiators being called for additional support. Contact was made with the woman and she was able to leave the house. After obtaining an arrest warrant for the man, members of the SWAT Team entered through a crawl space in the home early Sunday. There they found the body of an adult-aged man who had died from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. (Alex Miller)



Blotter: Car crimes, bow bans, and assault rifle selfies

GRIFFEN SMITH
griffen.smith@umontana.edu

Since last week's Blotter, UMPD reported 13 new cases on their crime log. The most common crime appeared to be car-related theft, with bike theft being a close second.

9/5 RAGIN' TRAFFIC JAM

An altercation between two cars at the intersection of Higgins and South Street sent UMPD to investigate what appeared to be road rage. UMPD Lt. Bradley Giffin said the two individuals stopped at the left turn lane on W. South Street, and then exchanged words while their cars were in park. It is not clear what started the argument, but Giffin said both drivers had conflicting stories on the traffic jam. Both individuals, including one student, received warnings not to get into intersection arguments again.

9/6 UNSUPERVISED ARCHERY

Two children practiced their best archery shots at the Sisson Craighead apartments Sunday afternoon, which elicited a response

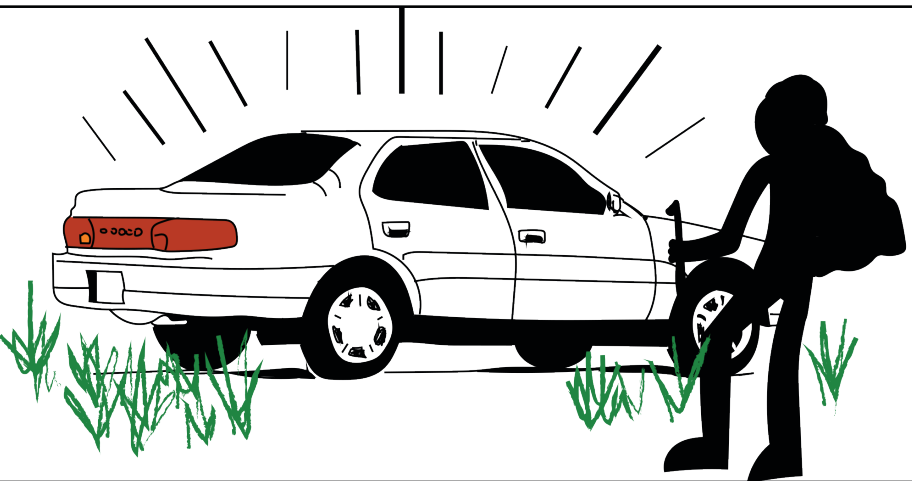
from UMPD. According to the Missoula city code, it is illegal to shoot a bow and arrow on public property. It is also illegal for a person under 15 to shoot a bow and arrow without parental supervision. The archers were guilty of both, and UMPD warned them to take their bows out of town next time.

9/8 LOOK OUT FOR A STOLEN TOYOTA

The owner of a 2012 gray Toyota SUV received a rude surprise when their car was not in its usual parking spot in lot J on campus. UMPD reported the vehicle stolen, and entered the car's information to an FBI database. The plates are from Illinois, and there are no suspects. If you see a car matching this description call the UMPD tip line at (406)-243-6131 or visit https://umt.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bvV2NYJ2UFEE2Ut.

9/9 GIRLFRIEND PROBLEMS

UMPD responded to a call from an RA in Miller Hall about performing a welfare check on one of their students. The resident was reportedly screaming with his door locked and did not let anyone talk to him. After officers



COLTON ROTHWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

arrived, the student said he was fine and just having girlfriend problems. He promised to keep it down for the rest of the night.

9/10 THAT'S ONE WEIRD SELFIE

A caller sent UMPD scrambling to Arthur Avenue after the caller reported seeing three

people step out of a white van with Washington plates carrying dangerous weapons. The two men and one woman reportedly posed with an assault rifle, a pistol and a baton, then took a selfie in front of the campus and drove off. UMPD was not able to locate the car.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20				21	22			23				
24			25	26				27				
28	29				30			31	32	33		
34	35				36			37				
38								39				
40				41	42		43	44				
45			46				47					
48					49			50	51	52		
53	54	55		56				57	58			
59				60			61	62				
63					64			65				
66					67			68				

- ACROSS
- 1 Puts in stitches
 - 5 Tiptop
 - 9 Hot sauce
 - 14 Cookie for dunking
 - 15 Watch-step link
 - 16 French farewell
 - 17 Kewpie, for one
 - 18 Connery film of 1999
 - 20 Go off-script
 - 22 Trepidation
 - 23 Engrossed by
 - 24 Match, in poker
 - 25 Conclusive trial
 - 28 Poe's middle name
 - 30 Bic filler
 - 31 Long, long ____
 - 34 On the way
 - 36 Ammunition wagon
 - 38 Arithmetic sign
 - 39 Kind of cavity
 - 40 Summer beverage
 - 43 Unable to sit still
 - 45 Hollywood's Danson
 - 46 Make a goof
 - 47 Mr. T's group
 - 48 False show
 - 50 Dog reprimand
 - 53 Certain dancer
 - 56 Staff symbol
 - 57 Kind of cap
 - 59 One-sided
 - 62 Reduce, as expenses
 - 63 Money substitute
 - 64 iPhone assistant
 - 65 Spellbound
 - 66 Spartan slave
 - 67 Leak slowly
- DOWN
- 68 Telephoto, for one
 - 1 Bubbly drinks
 - 2 Lose ground?
 - 3 Justly deserved
 - 4 Songs for one
 - 5 Sailor's assent
 - 6 Keep in custody
 - 7 Like some colors
 - 8 Unpredictable
 - 9 Tree trickling
 - 10 Cop to
 - 11 Bank claim
 - 12 Email folder
 - 13 Pilot starter
 - 19 Gladiator's place
 - 21 Railing part
 - 26 Felix, for one
 - 27 Like beauty, they say
 - 29 ____ and clear
 - 31 Gathering, as of things
- 32 Capricorn's creature
- 33 One's partner
- 34 Shed
- 35 "Way to go!"
- 37 Sprawling story
- 41 Standing
- 42 Unpretentious
- 43 Showy display
- 44 Computer pros
- 48 Sal's conquest
- 49 Chilling
- 51 Singer Neville
- 52 Bottom of the barrel
- 53 Overdo the praise
- 54 Enough, for some
- 55 Kind of scout
- 58 Translucent gem
- 60 Anagram for "tap"
- 61 Sassy talk

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Horoscope

Time to put your bartending skills to the test

ADDIE SLANGER
addieslanger@umontana.edu



NAT BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

The fifth week of school means midterm season is well and truly upon us. What better way to cope than cracking open a cold one? Make some mixies with your close friends (or by yourself), open up that powerpoint and pretend to study while you watch 12 back-to-back episodes of New Girl.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): Cosmopolitan. Okay Virgos, we know you might not actually have it all together, but by God you will LOOK like you have it all together. How better to show that than a cosmo? And if that little fancy lemon garnish is currently all that's preventing you from jumping off the deep end — that's okay, too. Whatever it takes.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): Mimosa. What's better, Libras, than a non-pandemic brunch with friends, champagne and orange juice? Well, a pandemic study session with friends, champagne and orange juice, of course. Okay, sorry. We tried. You guys are some classy SOBs, though. Mimosas through-and-through.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Old Fashioned. Bitters, whiskey and a maraschino cherry. Need we say more?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): Gin and tonic. It's light. It's bubbly. It's sickly sweet. Just like you, Sag. We know you're gonna buy the nice gin, too. You know, the one with the hint of lavender. Make us proud. Beware of that sugar hangover, though.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Red wine — and a heavy pour, at that. Look, we know wine isn't technically a mixed drink. But it'll get you drunk, and really, isn't that the point? Grab your knitting needles and open your biology textbook to that page you've been reading for the last hour. Go a little crazy — maybe DON'T alternate between wine and water. We won't tell anyone.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Whiskey Sour. How quirky of you, Aquarius. This drink isn't like other drinks. It shows all those kids ordering vodka lemons that you have ~ taste ~.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Moscow Mule. We know you bring your own organic ginger beer to the pregame. We know you'll show off said ginger beer the entire night. We're glad the Good Food Store was having a sale. But please, stop asking for lime juice.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Manhattan. This drink is intense. And so are you, Aries. Embrace your dark-liquor side and find a leather-cushioned chair to sit in while you swirl your drink around mysteriously.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Mojito. Such a classic. This is the drink your dad makes with his homegrown mint that sits wilting on the windowsill above the kitchen sink. And who's more practical and stubborn than your dad? Well, you, by definition.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Rum and Coke. Gemini, you aren't famous for your moderation. Either you're drinking for sport or you aren't drinking at all. That's why we're giving you this age-old pairing, a little complicated duality. Feel free to leave out the rum on nights before those big tests. Or maybe the Coke, now that we think about it. **CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):** Margarita. Cancers? And tequila? It's more likely than you think.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Martini. Nothing says "center of attention" like ordering a dry martini, shaken not stirred. It doesn't even matter if it tastes good. It gets the point across. And it allows you, Leos, to live out every James Bond fantasy you've ever had.

Private Greek life protocols meet public university

JACOB OWENS
jacob.owens@umontana.edu

The University of Montana’s 10 Greek Life chapters, which represent more than 400 students, have vowed to follow private chapter-specific protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 rather than the University requirements for the virus. UM officials said they have no authority over chapter rules, but can make recommendations.

This comes as the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Involvement released its “COVID-19 Guidance, Recommendations and Resources for Fraternity and Sorority Chapters” in early August.

The 17-page document provided chapters with recommendations rather than requirements because the Greek Life chapters are private organizations affiliated with UM, but they are overseen on a local and national level.

Lacey Zinke, the Fraternity and Sorority Involvement Director said the University’s authority over Greek life and COVID-19 regulations is complex: in some ways UM does have authority, and in some ways it doesn’t.

Zinke said her office acts as a “liaison” between the private chapters and the University.

The University’s role in creating chapter protocols is limited, but this does not prevent it from holding chapters accountable for code of conduct violations, including those related to mitigating COVID-19.

“As much as their chapter house is not owned by the University, they are recognized as a student group, and so that is where behavior that is potentially violating the conduct code would fall or would be under that jurisdiction,” Kelly Magnuson, the associate director of community standards, said.

Sam Mothner is a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, but he no longer lives in the fraternity house. He was on the University’s Interfraternity Council in 2019, a group that helps oversee fraternity chapters at UM.

Mothner said he feels more confident in his fraternity house than he would going into the dormitories on campus.

Mothner said Sigma Chi conducts weekly cleanings of its house and cleans often-touched surfaces every few days.

The chapter had a two-week no guest policy at the start of the semester, which prevented even outside members like Mothner from entering the house.

Mothner added that Sigma Chi has provided members with key cards to enter the house, instead of using a keypad.

Madeleine Itschner, the president of the

University’s Kappa Kappa Gamma chapter, said the chapter’s house is not allowing non-members in this semester. The two members living outside the house are only allowed on the first floor with masks on.

The changes to protocol each chapter has this year led to much of recruitment being done online.

Zinke’s office hosted a socially distanced, virtual tour of chapter homes in the University Center a few weeks back. Links were sent to all those registered for recruitment, for those who did not attend. Small groups also had the opportunity to tour the area around where the houses are located.

Luke Schmit, the treasurer of Kappa Sigma, said his chapter has not been allowed to host any gatherings and has mainly stayed around their two facilities on Gerald Street.

“The whole corona thing is just, it’s really difficult, because people want to socialize obviously in Greek Life, that’s the reason you join and when you’re told not to socialize you’re kind of puzzled what to do,” Schmit said.

Itschner’s chapter does not plan to have any in-person events until the spring of 2021.

“We plan on not really hanging out with people who don’t live with us just so we can keep each other safe,” she said.

Itschner said that she, along with the chapter’s vice president, house chairman and risk management chairman, oversee the house’s protocols.

Chapters are also overseen by their national headquarters, local organizations like the Interfraternity or Panhellenic councils and advisors.

Mothner said Sigma Chi’s advisors are a motivating factor behind preventing an outbreak in the chapter.

“We’re taking it very seriously, especially just to please them and to protect ourselves and keep everyone healthy,” Mothner said.

Zinke declined to comment on whether any of the Greek Life chapters had positive cases, citing the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

FERPA and HIPAA are federal laws that protect the privacy of an individual’s educational records and the privacy of an individual’s health records, respectively. The University refused to release campuswide COVID-19 case numbers earlier this semester, also citing HIPAA and FERPA.

The University has since began releasing case numbers last Wednesday through the Missoula City-County Health Department health portal.



The University of Montana’s Greek Row on September 11, 2020. **CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

IN-HOME CHILD CARE GRANT FOR FAMILIES



Do you have children ages 0-18 who cannot return to school or child care during the pandemic due to special circumstances? You might qualify!

\$4,000 grants available. No income limit.

Contact Child Care Resources today!

www.childcareresources.org/parent
406.728.6446



This project is funded in whole or in part under a Contract with the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. The statements herein do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Department. Total cost of this publication is \$252, 100% of which is federal monies.



Vanderkar tapped for ASUM’s new freshman seat

JACOB OWENS
jacob.owens@umontana.edu

Last week, Noah Vanderkar became the first student to serve on the Associated Students of the University of Montana senate’s freshman-designated seat.

The seat was approved in ASUM elections last spring, making the seat a permanent position for a freshman senator. The hope was to bring the perspective of underclassmen living on campus into decision making in the student government.

“I think that getting picked definitely made me feel more at home and feel more accustomed to this new place that I call home,” Vanderkar said. “Coming from California it gives me an avenue to start really getting involved.”

Vanderkar grew up in Sacramento, California. In high school he served on the student body government, helped with several local campaigns and lobbied for local legislation. He was chosen for ASUM’s freshman seat through a series of interviews with current senators.

ASUM Senator Paul Tran welcomed the move to add the seat.

“I feel it’s a demographic that is most affected by the workings of the University, thus deserving to be represented,” Tran said.

Former ASUM senator Alexandra Akmal led the effort to create the seat.

Akmal was known as “the freshman senator” in fall of 2018 when she served as the only freshman for nearly two months, though a few more freshmen were recruited eventually. She embraced her role as one of the youngest in the senate with a different perspective than the rest of the senators.

ASUM looked at potential changes to its constitution last fall. Akmal saw it as an opportunity to ensure there would always be at least one seat solely for freshmen.

Akmal helped draft a resolution to include this change and presented it to the ASUM senate.

The resolution passed in the senate, which allowed it to be voted on as a referendum in ASUM’s elections last spring. Referendum SB42 passed by a margin of 80% to 20%.

SB42 caps senate seats at 27 seats instead of the previous 26, but the additional seat can only be filled by a freshman. Any student, including freshmen, can hold a seat on the senate, Vice President of ASUM James Flanaganthe said, the designated freshman seat is not the only seat a freshman can hold.

Flanagan said he sees the seat as an opportunity for another perspective.



University of Montana’s freshman ASUM Senator Noah Vanderkar stands on the Oval two days after being sworn into office on Sept. 9th, 2020. Vanderkar’s interest in student government started in his hometown while working on various political campaigns. As an ASUM Senator, he wants to address some of UM’s COVID-19 housing policies that restrict locations where students can study. He says that an unintended consequence of these policies is that students living in the dorms congregate in select locations rather than being able to spread out. **LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN**

“For this student, this freshman student, online college is normal for them because it’s what they’re coming into, so I think that’s going to be really interesting to see and hear about how things are working with them and how the freshman experience is really turning out to be,” he said.

Vanderkar said he has three main focuses for the fall semester: helping groups on campus that are at a social or economic disadvantage, better informing students on the experiences of minority groups on campus and ensuring freshmen get the campus experience.

Vanderkar said more events similar to the Silent Disco held during Griz Welcome Week could help with the third goal, but he acknowledged the need to follow Centers for Disease Control guidelines, “to make sure that the

housing, food and other parts of campus are as social, but socially distanced as possible.”

Vanderkar’s addition to the senate puts the current number of ASUM senators at 23.

Referendum SB41, which makes the senate more proportional to the student body, was also passed in the spring. The referendum sets one senator for every 500 students.

This referendum will result in around twenty senators after next spring’s election, a decrease from the 22 to 23 seats ASUM usually has filled. The number of seats will include the additional seat for the freshman who will join next fall.

“My hope is that this is just a way for freshmen to feel like ASUM actually cares about them,” Akmal said.

JOURNALISM JOB

Southeast Missourian



This newspaper/website seeks a sports journalist with photography and design chops to help create content and craft the newspaper's daily sports section. Content focuses on the region's high school sports programs on a 24-hour online news cycle and six-day print product. BA in journalism preferred.

Study journalism and get a great job. Come see us in DAH 201 or umt.edu/journalism

MONTANA
UNIVERSITY OF
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM



The art of resistance

Elijah Jalil’s protest through music

Story by Meghan Jonas
Photos by Sara Diggins



Elijah Jalil’s eyes closed as he sang. Gold streamers stirred softly behind him as a breeze drifted through the tiny, lime green room in Imagine Nation Brewing Company in downtown Missoula. His face tightened as he sang louder and louder, so loud that the microphone in front of him briefly cut out. It was as if, for a second, nothing mattered to him except doing the song justice. Jalil was previewing his debut album, “Nothing to Say,” on a recent Friday evening as part of KBGA’s 24th birthday bash livestream. “That was ‘Lift Every Voice and Sing,’” he said after he finished singing. “Also known as the Black National Anthem.” He listed the authors, J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson, before adding, “so look into that. If you don’t know, now you know.” Jalil, who is Black and Filipino, was the only visible person of color at the brewery that evening. But he was in his element. He smiled and chuckled at the camera sitting 10 feet in front of him, looking directly into the lens. A natural performer. He soon began playing soft, acoustic guitar in the tiny room. He looked at the camera as he started to sing “Sunrise,” the first song of the album. It set a tone of mellowness and joy that continued through much of the set. As the music director of KBGA, I was excited to hear Jalil play. As a critic, I was impressed by his level of talent, especially as a relatively new musician in the public eye.



Just as his movements are intentional, so is his art. Jalil, 24, identifies as a social justice artist, one widely known in Missoula. He has used dancing, acting and, above all, music, to draw attention to the experience of Black Americans and tell his own story of what it’s like to be a Black man in a predominantly white area. “Nothing to Say” is his first musical release, but his relative-greenness doesn’t show. Jalil has lived in Missoula since he moved from Portland in fall 2018, and is currently at the University of Montana pursuing his MFA in acting. He traces his artistic path to acting in the musical “In The Heights” during high school. He played a character so small that he doesn’t even remember their name, but relished the experience. But his love of music first came when Jalil was in middle school in Alameda, California. He took a guitar class with teacher Anselmo Reis, and knew that he wanted to be a musician. Reis has been teaching since 1983, but still remembers Jalil. “We knew that whatever (Jalil) set his mind to, he would succeed,” Reis said. “There isn’t a finer person out there. They don’t come any better.” Jalil has found success merging his love of performance — be it acting or music — with his passion for activism. Whether it’s the choreographed glances at the camera or the inflection in his voice when he speaks, Jalil seems to have every moment of his public speeches rehearsed. Jalil has spent most of his life surrounded by those who don’t look like him. He experienced this largely at the University of Portland, where he received a bachelor’s degree in theater. He recalled a new student event he attended as an incoming freshman, where his family, made up of his mother, father and brother, were the only people of color at the mixer. Jalil eventually found a Black community at the university, but it’s an experience that still sticks with him.



It was the same experience when he first came to Missoula. In his first seven weeks at UM, Jalil didn’t speak to another Black person. The Black Student Union (BSU) was the first place — at the University he would call his home for the next several years — he was able to be in the company of those who looked like him. BSU leadership approached Jalil a week after, and asked him if he would perform at a family culture night, where he sang, danced and read poetry over the course of 15 minutes. Jalil said this is what helped solidify him as an artist in the minds of the people around him. Since then, Jalil has used his platform as an artist to speak about his experience as a Black man living in a white community many times. After the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police on May 25, the BSU asked Jalil to speak at a Black Lives Matter rally. In the years he’s lived in Missoula, Jalil has performed poems about how his life intersected with those around him and choreographed dances where he wore a white mask, his own version of whiteface — but speaking at a protest was different. He could plan what he would say, but there would be no mask, nothing to take the attention away from himself. He chose to take an artistic approach, expressing his feelings poetically, while focusing on the resilience of the Black community. Jalil believed his presence at the rally helped bring comfort. “There is so much hurt and sadness, and rightfully so. But there is also joy in the fact that I’m still here and there are still members of our community that are still here and fighting,” Jalil said. He is doing what George Floyd or Breonna Taylor no longer can; fighting against injustice. “Being a Black and Filipino person in predominantly white spaces already feels like a protest,” Jalil said. “Me existing is a protest.”

It also is part of the reason he feels BSU asked him to perform at the BLM rally. “I was out there because they (BSU) wanted me to help bring joy,” Jalil said. “There’s so much hurt and sadness, but there’s also joy.”



“Nothing to Say” is filled with that same joy. Jalil’s collaborator Britt Arnesen’s skillful guitar and piano create a firm foundation for Jalil’s introspective lyrics. A variety of outside instruments, like cellos, violins, electric guitar and vibraphones give the album depth without taking attention from Jalil’s message.

Jalil takes inspiration from artists like Lin Manuel Miranda and Leon Bridges. He draws from the nature around him, writing songs like “Sunrise” or “Birds in the Sky.” They are sweet and sound gentle. The songs sound like they could have been ripped out of a poetry book. Jalil’s voice, which is a force itself, softens.

He laughs as he mentioned he wrote “Sunrise” after watching a sunrise in Portland. When asked what inspires him, he started listing things he had seen in nature that day. The river, the birds, the clouds. Being in nature is one of the few ways the artist rests. He is a man constantly moving and creating.

As the album continues, it becomes clear that “Nothing to Say” isn’t just conveying blissed-out happiness.

The difference between the first few tracks and “Nothing to Say” is vast. For five minutes, the whimsical folkiness that has permeated the album is gone. “Nothing to Say” is honest, almost brutally so, but never feels like an attack toward anyone. Jalil is able to dive into the general American experience of being Black, as well as his personal experience.

Jalil explains that starting his record off with folk music, a predominantly white genre, was a way to get the people around him to actually listen to what he had to say. The whiteness of folk and the way it has historically excluded members of the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) community and women, do not go unnoticed by Jalil and Arnesen. It’s a way to take the genre back, Arnesen, a white woman, said.

If someone were to contrast “Sunrise” with Jalil’s later tracks, they might not believe it’s the same album. The first six tracks, while good in their own right, sound like a warm-up. Jalil said that the order isn’t a coincidence. It’s a way for listeners to become used to Jalil, appreciating his music, before he reveals his experience as a Black man.

“Running out of Time” is the track that strays the farthest from folk. The backing is simple, none of the melodic guitars or piano that permeate the rest of the album. Jalil sounds desperate as he raps about pressure. There isn’t a break on the track. Jalil’s rapping gets faster and faster before barely slowing down again. The entire track is a race.

“Fuck It Up” is where Jalil’s voice truly soars. It sounds like he’s effortlessly holding every note, hitting belts without any struggle. He raps lyrics like “before they pulled me out the womb they called me threatening” over his vocals. He said he’s aiming higher than



Elijah Jalil, right, films his friend, Augustus Ballantine, dancing to songs from his album near the Clark Fork River on Sept. 7, 2020. Jalil filmed several of his friends dancing to songs off the album to help promote his music.

survival. It’s not the last track on the album, but it’s a statement to who Jalil is becoming.



The guitar on the album, and most of the musical backing, comes from Arnesen. Arnesen, a skilled bluegrass musician, said the album became a group effort after she met Jalil at an open-mic at Imagine Nation Brewing Company in the summer of 2019. However, their plan of creating an album was not pushed to fruition until the pandemic put an end to gigging. Arnesen, who plays frequently at the resort Paws Up, was lucky to have a steady gig. But many of the artists she had met while touring across the nation, and



Elijah Jalil adjusts the capo on his guitar during a rehearsal session in Silver Park on Aug. 28, 2020 ahead of his performance at KBGA's Birthday Bash.



Elijah Jalil practices his music at Silver Park on Aug. 28

who depended on live shows for their income, were not.

Those same artists sent Arnesen their own version of Jalil’s music, collaborating on an album by someone they had never met. Over six months, Jalil’s voice and Arnesen’s simple backing were added on to by some of the best musicians that Arnesen knew. Each piece would get layered on to the next until Arnesen sent them off to be mixed and mastered. The results are tracks that sound like they were recorded by a large band in a professional studio.

Arnesen wanted to be a part of something greater than herself when she agreed to be a part of Jalil’s album. She adopted his music as her own. The duo both say that the other complete their thoughts musically. She stopped working on a western album, dedicating herself fully to “Nothing to Say.”

“I had a high bar for myself because that’s what his career deserved,” Arnesen said. She played acoustic guitar, piano, upright bass and the mandola on Jalil’s album on top of singing backup vocals and directing the flow of the album.

Jalil has been one of Arnesen’s favorite collaborators since she moved to Missoula 10 years ago. She feels lucky to have met and created music with Jalil when she did. She is a strong cheerleader of the young artist, but she never tries to take credit for Jalil’s success.

“We need to put Black people, people of color, Indigenous people, at the front. We need to put them front and center of everything that we can,” she said. It was Jalil’s moment to shine. Arnesen was just there operating the lights.

Jalil’s album was originally supposed to be a play, scored and performed live by Arnesen and other musicians. It would have brought all the things he loved together, combining

actors, dancers and musicians. Jalil’s love of acting, music and dance has fluctuated as he defines his identity as an artist.



The seventh track, “Nothing to Say,” was inspired by Jalil’s relationship with his father. Jalil started his undergraduate career as an engineering major before switching to computer science, finally settling into acting. The entire first verse comes from things Jalil’s father said to him when he told his parents he was switching majors. Jalil’s family now wholeheartedly supports his music, and his father enjoys the song. The album is hostility-free, even if the title track is contentious.

“Nothing to Say” is one of the most revealing tracks on the record. It’s also where Jalil raps for the first time: “Give them what they want E, show them that you’re Black, like those other porch monkeys.” The content, language and energy are a revelatory switch from the happy-go-lucky nature album and immediately command a listener’s attention.

Jalil sings, “I’m a Black wave in a white sea,” a quote that has resonated with him since he first read it in “Salt,” a book of poetry by instagram-famous and notoriously reclusive Nayyirah Waheed. For Jalil, it’s the perfect way to describe the frustration and loneliness that can come from being othered in a community that is meant to be home.

He sings that he can’t find the words to express what he really means. He laughs about “Nothing to Say” being the longest song on the album, as well as being the album’s title. Music has become a way for him to finally say what he means — a way to urge action where it’s needed most.

“Nobody else is going to change the world for us,” Jalil said. “We have to do it.”

'The Broken Hearts Gallery' is a solid comedy in the genre's dark age

CLINT CONNORS

clint.connors@umontana.edu

As disastrous as 2020 has been, the world's prayers have been answered with a shred of good news: a good Hollywood comedy.

Granted, "The Broken Hearts Gallery" is far from a masterpiece, and it's not even as good as last year's "Good Boys."

But in our lackluster era of "Holmes and Watson," "Coffee and Kareem" and anything Adam Sandler shits out — bereft of talented actors, visionary directors or, you know, anything funny — we should take whatever we can get.

First-time director Natalie Krinsky takes the audience on the journey of Lucy Gulliver (Geraldine Viswanathan), an art gallery assistant trapped in a past filled with exes. Lucy isn't just nostalgic; she hoards mementos of past relationships in her house.

When her roommates (Molly Gordon

and Phillipa Soo) force her to move the junk elsewhere, she stumbles across a start-up called the Chloe Hotel and its owner, Nick (Dacre Montgomery), who's cynical about love. The two get the idea to fill the empty building with Lucy's trinkets as well as the possessions of other hopeless romantics.

They transform the collection into The Broken Hearts Gallery with the intention of helping attendees, and — gasp! — Lucy and Nick, through their relationship woes.

A fantastic ensemble cast elevates this clichéd plot. Gordon and Soo are particularly entertaining, and it's a shame they don't get more screen time. Their deliveries ensure that even the weaker jokes at least get a smile, if not a laugh.

Krinsky has more visual flair than most comedy directors working today (looking at you, Etan Cohen). She uses framing and lighting, and the occasional editing trick, to deliver punchlines. The camera shifts its focus a bit too much, but in the grand scheme of comedic filmmaking, who cares?

Unfortunately, that isn't the only problem with "The Broken Hearts Gallery." The rom-com tropes get harder to stomach in the third act, when we're treated to not one but TWO forced arguments that split our lovers apart. In addition, a minor twist revealing why Lucy hoards her trinkets comes out of nowhere and feels entirely unnecessary.

And there are so. Many. Shitty. Pop. Songs.

Still, Krinsky and the cast sometimes warp the routine plot points to create genuinely heartwarming moments. The story's themes of coping and adulthood will particularly resonate with college students.

"The Broken Hearts Gallery" won't go down in history as a comedy classic. But it will ensure viewers who are missing their "Anchormans" and "Superbads" that the genre may not be dead after all.

And in a COVID-19 world, we could all use a good laugh.



CONTRIBUTED

Star Renegades; A good game tainted by sticker shock

JAMES BRADLEY

james.bradley@umontana.edu

The premise of "Star Renegades" is a familiar one: an evil cadre of extradimensional colonizers have come to raze your world, and it's up to you to stop it.

This game, developed by Toronto-based studio Massive Damage (creators of "Halcyon 6"), takes the familiar space Nazis theme and does absolutely nothing interesting with it. "Star Renegades" is a little too blunt with the references. The first boss says "might is right" during battle. His death line is, "I was just following orders."

The story follows your elite squad as they battle against an alien race led by the super AI known as Mother. Although it's built on a tired gaming stereotype, the story is vaguely interesting. Throughout the campaign, I stumbled across floating "question marks," which gave me a little nugget of world building when I clicked on them. The hints were just vague enough to make me want to find the next one to clarify my questions, but not so obtuse that I rolled my eyes and moved on.

And for nearly \$25, I want my game to

be something that can hold my attention for longer than two hours. The game's 5-minute loop of fighting cold and impersonal drones got repetitive quickly, a fault I would forgive if "Star Renegades" were about half the price. Shoot, I'd settle for some cheesy quips between my squad and the enemies. The characters all have personalities, but are apparently all business during fights.

I played "Star Renegades" on my PC (it's available on every major system too), and the menu system is also needlessly half-baked. It feels like it would do better with a controller, but "Star Renegades" doesn't support controllers for PC. I found myself strategizing how to use my keyboard rather than focusing on in-game tactics. Combining moves to prevent enemies from attacking was an interesting puzzle for a while (until I found the character that does that instantly).

"Star Renegades" also advertises itself as a strategy game, but I managed to brute force my way through the first world without feeling like my cotton ball of a brain was at all taxed. Maybe it was tactical wizardry. Or maybe it's this "strategy game" selling itself as something it's not.

That's not to say that this game doesn't



CONTRIBUTED

shine occasionally. The old-school pixelated graphics made me ache for a time when video games could be revolutionary without realistic gore physics (like the DOOM reboots). The music was nearly perfect, just basic enough to fade into the base of my

subconscious, but also catchy enough to make me feel like I wasn't just sitting in a silent void, aimlessly clicking on a screen.

Overall, I would absolutely buy this game again if it were on sale. It makes for a good casual experience.

COVID-19 testing is a game of '20 Questions' on steroids

CLINT CONNORS

clint.connors@umontana.edu

When a man has a swab shoved up his nose and tickling his brain, a man gets to thinking: Is he in good hands? Will the people destroying his nostrils be able to tell him if he can go back to work, or more importantly, if he and his loved ones will be safe?

This summer, my mom and I had to get tested for COVID-19. My boss had tested positive, and I was considered a close contact...maybe?

As it turns out, the awkward nose examination would be the easy part of the process. Finding out how safe my family and I were was another matter.

According to the Department of Public Health and Human Services' website, there have been a total of 9,021 COVID-19 cases and 135 deaths in Montana as of Sept. 4. The last thing I wanted was to get shoved into those statistics.

When would I be told if I was negative, if I was told at all? Was my interaction with my boss enough to make me and anyone else I know quarantine? Could I go back to either of my jobs?

These, in our minds, were reasonable questions, and we couldn't get straight answers for any of them. We called several people at Silver Bow county's health center and health department. Everyone from both establishments gave us contradictory answers and/or told us to call the other establishment and ask them.

To complicate things even further, we got a call that my mom's test, as well of a slew of others that day, had been faulty. She would have to get another one if she wanted accurate results.

Had mine failed? They couldn't answer that.

Thus, my options were to either not get tested again and gamble my health, or get tested again and take time away from people who probably needed the results more than I did.

This lack of transparency was frustrating, and not just because I was whining about not going back to work (which I was). It's because I was worried about the safety of myself and those I cared about. Two of my family members, as well as one of my best friends, have underlying health conditions.

And all of our well-beings were in the hands of people who didn't seem to know what they were talking about.

In the end, it turned out to be okay. We



NATALIE BRANCACCIO | MONTANA KAIMIN

were finally able to confirm that after four days, if I didn't hear from the health department about my results, I was in the clear. And I never did.

Plus, I was never considered a close contact to begin with. As it turns out, I didn't need to get tested.

This was great news...until, again, I remembered that I had wasted the time of both the people giving the test and the patients at higher risk.

Getting tested for COVID-19 is already a stressful process. It could determine whether or not you can keep paying for rent, give your relative a hug or, in the most extreme circumstances, live to see your next birthday. The last thing patients need is an uncommunicative and knowledgeable staff addressing their concerns with shoulder shrugs.

I'll tolerate a swab poking organs I didn't know existed. I won't, however, tolerate confusion brought on by medical professionals.

ASUM Legal Services provides reduced-cost legal services to UM Students

Book an appointment today!
asumlegal@mso.umt.edu

@asumlegal



University of Montana resident assistant Cole Read volunteers to try on the drunk goggles and walk through a series of roadside DUI tests at the Party Like a Pro event on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020.

ZACH MEYER | MONTANA KAIMIN

‘Party Like A Pro’ educates students on partying amid COVID-19

GRIFFEN SMITH

griffen.smith@umontana.edu

In the courtyard between Miller and Dun-
iway halls on Sept. 9, students sported drunk
goggles and tried to win socially distanced
games. The weekly UM Housing-sponsored
event, “Party Like A Pro,” drew a couple doz-
en students who listened to speakers from law
enforcement and UM’s health services.

“It is all about education here,” UMPD
police Lt. Bradley Giffin said. “It is great to be
able to reach out to students and talk about
the importance of being safe while having
fun.”

“Party Like A Pro” is an annual education
event on how to make smart choices. It usu-
ally focuses on the dangers of drinking and
driving, but this year’s event had a new twist

— learning how to safely interact with people
during the pandemic.

Usually, the event happens once a year on
the Oval. To limit the number of people at
the event, UM Housing split it into a three-
part series. Each week will feature a different
residence hall location and require masks and
social distancing.

Each booth represented a different campus
group and held various activities. The Curry
Health Center asked students to measure out
how much liquid is in one glass of wine, beer,
or hard alcohol, though its booth was not set
up at the Miller Hall event.

The Missoula County Sheriff’s office set up
a booth focused on the complications people
deal with after getting a DUI. Pamphlets de-
scribed that a DUI charge always results in a
fine with possible jail time, but also explained
employers would be able to see the charge

from newspapers.

UMPD’s table featured a drunk goggle field
test game. Students put on specially designed
goggles that imitated the field of vision of
a person under the influence of alcohol. Lt.
Giffin then made students perform a field
sobriety test, which included walking in a
straight line and balancing on one foot.

“It is just really good information and
education about alcohol,” Giffin said. “They
can see when they’re sober how bad their
performance would be if they were actually
drinking and driving.”

Cole Read, a resident assistant from Miller
Hall, brought some of his residents to the
event. He said while the drunk goggles were
a little overwhelming, he thought the lessons
learned were important.

“I’m glad that they are educating people
about drinking responsibly,” said Read. “I

was already in the opinion that you shouldn’t
booze and cruise, but it was nice to get a
refresher on things.”

Griz Health’s booth held a social distancing
game. Using two cones, students estimated
how far six feet was, and then booth workers
measured to see how close their guess was.

Jenny Taylor has worked with Griz Health
since the start of the summer. She distributed
the Healthy Griz Kits, and she helps with
symptom checking at the Curry Health Cen-
ter. She said while that work is rewarding, she
also enjoys getting out and helping to inform
students what Griz Health does.

“I feel like people don’t really know why
we’re here or what we’re doing,” Taylor said.
“So we do a lot of actively working with each
other to figure out some better ways to reach
out to the community and keep this family
safe and healthy.”

Missoula Paddleheads hopeful for the future

JOHN ORZECZOWSKI

john.orzeczowski@umontana.edu

For the first time since gaining a team
in 1999, Missoula had a summer with no
minor league baseball. The Missoula Pad-
dleheads, the rookie affiliate minor league
team for the Arizona Diamondbacks, saw
no time on the field.

“We realized baseball wasn’t gonna
happen this year,” Matt Ellis, vice presi-
dent of the Missoula Paddleheads, said. So
the question became, “How can we give
back? How can we provide entertainment
in a safe environment?”

Getting 30 major league teams to play
baseball was hard enough, as some MLB
players tested positive for the coronavirus
over the course of the season, which began
in July. Rob Manfred, the commissioner
of the MLB, has so far managed to have
a season with limited travel, a shortened
season and no fans.

But what works for three dozen major
league teams was deemed insufficient for
the 261 minors. The minor league season
was postponed on July 30, 2020.

After the postponement, Ellis and his
team were determined to make the most
of the situation they’d been forced into by
COVID-19. Ogren Park at Allegiance Field
has not been abandoned. There have been
trivia nights, yoga classes, dinner nights
and movie screenings held in place of ball.

“We could do movie nights all day
long,” Ellis said. “They don’t meet the rev-
enue of a baseball game.” Having kept the
whole front office open for the entire year,
the Paddleheads’ budget was bound to be
an issue even before COVID-19.

According to Sports Illustrated, the
MLB’s original plan for a new agreement
with the minor league included cutting
around 40 minor league teams, begging
the question of whether 2020 could be the
last year the Paddleheads spend in Mis-
soula. The Paddleheads are one of eight
teams in the Pioneer League, a rookie-level
Northwest conference with teams in Mon-
tana, Colorado, Idaho and Utah.

In the hierarchy of Minor League teams,
the Pioneer League and rookie leagues



The outer gates of Ogren Park at Allegiance Field, home of the Missoula Paddleheads minor league baseball team. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

in general fall toward the bottom, due to
their small markets and how little star
power they have. If a player is any good,
they almost immediately get called up.

But Ellis isn’t worried about the Pioneer
League being eliminated. “We will have
professional baseball in this town next
year,” he said.

The Paddleheads switched up their
branding last fall for the first time since
1999, when they first arrived in Missoula
as the Osprey from Lethbridge, Alberta
(hence the name of the stadium). The Pad-
dleheads’ logo, 8a moose, was voted best
new logo in the Minors in January of 2020.

Ellis says the team has enjoyed broad
support from the city. When news first
broke that the MLB might eliminate mi-
nor league teams, the Paddleheads asked
their fans to provide testimonials using
the hashtag #savemyteam on Twitter.

“It’s of paramount importance that
MLB understands how important this
franchise is to our great community,” the
Paddleheads posted on their website.

“The Montana baseball road trip is a
highlight of my summer,” tweeted Pad-
dleheads fan Jeremy Klaszus in response
to a Paddleheads tweet, “Keep minor

league baseball in Montana! #savemy-
team.”

In 2018, the Helena Brewers played their
final season in the Pioneer League before
relocating to Colorado Springs, leaving
behind a small park, built in 1932, that
seated 2,100 but often sold a fraction of
that number of tickets. At the time, there
was no #savemyteam campaign.

The best logo in the minors will not go
to waste, if Ellis can help it. Minor League
baseball’s agreement with the MLB will
expire on Sept. 29.

UM classes analyze effects of Rattlesnake dam removal

JP EDGE

johnpaul.edge@umontana.edu

The sounds of machinery and moving rocks fill the air just above an open rock pit as bikers and hikers pass by a University of Montana class. Below them sits the remnants of the Rattlesnake Creek dam, which was recently removed and restored.

The students are in a class called Process Geomorphology - the study of how landscapes look the way they do. It was not a typical classroom setting, but the project paired well with what the students were learning.

"The creation and placement of riffle bars and deeper pools created with log jams in the stream restoration are applications of the quantitative study of these physical features," senior Nic Gravely, a student in the class, said. "It was really interesting to see how applied geoscience can be used to create a thoughtful and purposeful result through restoration projects like the Rattlesnake dam removal."

Rob Roberts, a project manager at Trout Unlimited, led the class in the history of the Rattlesnake Creek dam and the process of restoring the area to how it looked before 1904. He is also a graduate from UM.

"We've added 10 miles of migration territory for the fish," he said. "We're going to restructure this place to the point that in five years, nobody ever realizes there were man made structures here."

For over 100 years, the three million gallon dam sat on Rattlesnake Creek that served as Missoula's main source of water, until giardia was found upstream. Missoula then switched to using a different aquifer, rendering the dam useless in 1983.

The dam removal project began in 2017, when the City of Missoula, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Trout Unlimited began the permitting. There are also over 20 private companies in Missoula helping with the project financially.

The deconstruction of the 15 foot by 120 foot concrete dam began in June of 2020.

The next step will be restoring the creek bed to its original state. This process is what Gravely and his class came to observe. The concrete was buried below the parking lot and the rocks are being used as a part of the stream's restoration, as part of the overflow area. The team will continue to restore the area until their contract ends in late October.



On the bank of Rattlesnake Creek, Rob Roberts of Trout Unlimited teaches a University of Montana class on process geomorphology above the grounds of the restoration site. The project should be done by late October. **JP EDGE | MONTANA KAIMIN**

Rattlesnake Creek is a tributary of the Clark Fork River. Its headwaters come out of the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area north of Missoula.

The stress put on fish from the dam is one thing that fishery biologists like Ladd Knotek of Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks take very seriously. It was apparent that fish like Bull trout and the Western Cutthroat are getting stressed due to overfishing and some of the difficulties the dam caused.

"One of the problems that we have with the Clark Fork and some of the other river tributaries around here are recruitment limited, which means that there's more space available in the river, than there are

small fish coming in to fill those spaces below," Knotek said. "Another way of saying that is below carrying capacity."

Knotek said that with the dam removed, it will be easier for fish to make their way up the creek, putting less stress on the fish while rearing and spawning, stages of a fish's life that are crucial for a healthy river system.

"The bigger issue was [trout] trying to find the entrance to the ladder, because they're naturally drawn to where the main flow of the stream is," Knotek said.

Another part to a healthy river system for trout is a complex diversity of trees and deep pools. Before, the dam stopped fallen trees from flowing downstream

during high flows. Now, with the dam removed, there is no longer anything to stop them from moving downstream, giving the fish more places to find a home.

If the project continues to go smoothly, both Roberts and Knotek have bigger fish to fry. Currently, there are also 10 other dams in the Rattlesnake Wilderness Area that helped serve the Rattlesnake Creek dam. These dams are hard to access and are also no longer needed.

"We hope to do a pilot project on one dam in the next few years," Roberts said. "And if that goes well, there are still nine dams that we will have to deal with. It's a large body of work."