

MONTANA KAIMIN

BIASED

ARCHITECTURE



History, weather and the
cost of accessibility upgrades
throw barriers in the path of
disabled students

Story by Andy Tallman



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Cover photo by Lukas Prinos

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

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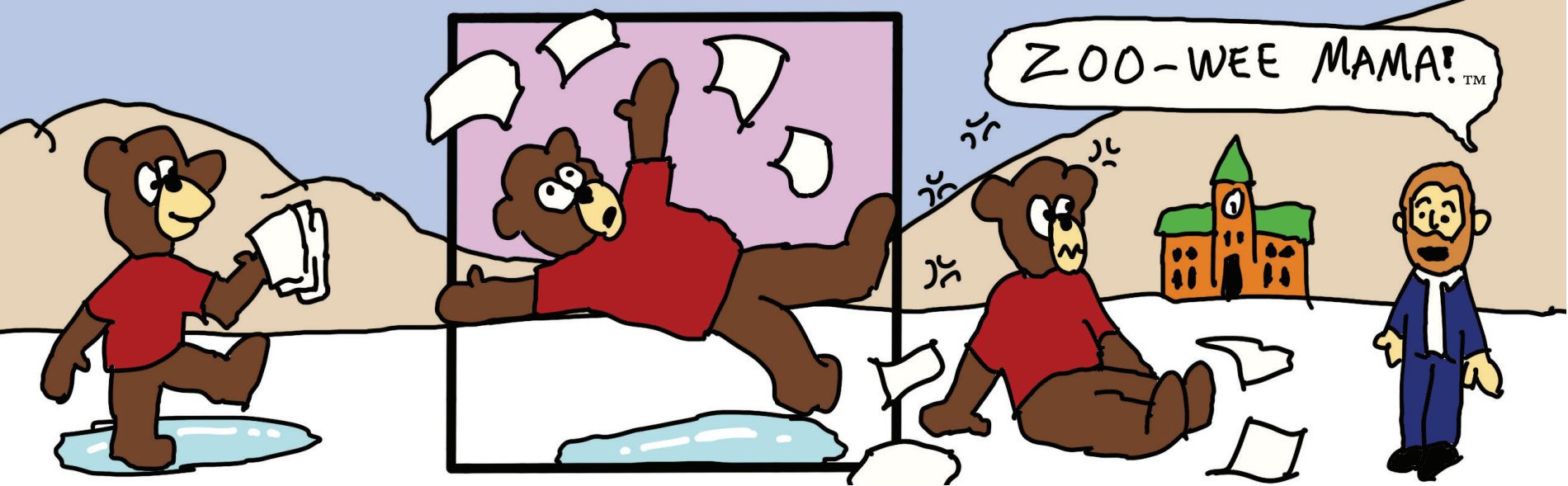
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THE GARAGE: SE 3 EP 12



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Ballin’ bros UM is in a losing accessibility battle



Wide receivers Ryan Simpson and Mitch Roberts celebrate a Grizzly first down at the Nov. 12 game against Eastern Washington University. Griz won 63-7 during a cold, but sunny Saturday afternoon.
NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

The University of Montana is misleading incoming students by saying it has an inclusive campus when there are many barriers keeping students with disabilities from moving freely on it.

UM has been pulled in many directions with staffing issues across campus. But the fact that the University has not done an ADA self-evaluation since 2004 shows disabled students have been neglected and need more compassion from UM.

In this week’s cover story, the Kaimin talked to multiple students living with disabilities that affect mobility. Some have been trapped in the Food Zoo, lecture halls and residence halls due to frequently broken elevators, sometimes for hours.

Some said they’ve needed to call on their peers to help them through ice and snow-ridden walkways after snowstorms.

This caused some to risk their safety evacuating their dorms during a fire drill, and others to miss their classes. One student had to listen to their professor teach from behind a wall because she lacked access to her classroom’s floor.

Under Seth Bodnar’s tenure as UM President, he has consistently stated his administration’s goal is “inclusive prosperity” for everyone who works and studies at UM.

“At the University of Montana our mission is simple. Our mission is Montana. To provide a flagship education that’s as all-encompassing and awe-inspiring as the Treasure State itself,” UM’s strategic narrative reads. “To be the university that’s both accessible and accountable — respected around the world, resourceful in our stewardship of the land that sustains us, and responsive here at home to all of Montana’s communities and Indigenous cultures.”

But these statements ring hollow given that the Office of Disability Equity is the only one working exclusively on holding UM accountable on accessibility. This week’s cover story highlights how UM needs to do more for students with disabilities to realize Bodnar’s goals.

UM has only one contracted elevator technician to respond to malfunctions and only four ODE coordinators serving 1,500 students. Many “accessible” bathrooms on campus cannot close with a wheelchair inside the stalls, according to UM students.

And despite UM offering accessible dorms on multiple floors in some halls, students shared that problems arising from broken elevators don’t get solved. In addition, there’s a lack of first-floor room replacements available in this year’s filled-to-the-brink housing situation.

Outside of the ODE’s efforts to organize accommodations for students with disabilities, the Kaimin acknowledges that simply renovating every building and updating every elevator is not a viable option for UM.

Parts are more expensive and delayed from supply chain issues. Much needed updates in buildings on campus averaging 60 years old can cost more than \$1 million for a single elevator.

But if the University hopes to boost its enrollment by marketing itself as inclusive and accessible, the Kaimin believes it needs to back up its rhetoric with action and make students’ ability to move across campus a much higher priority.

Now, after its first year of growth in a decade in 2021 and reporting a nearly \$40 million tuition revenue increase over the last year, UM is in the position to do more than ever. Most important, it has plenty of options for where to focus its attention.

Along with \$137 million from the Board of Regents this year, Facilities Services could be given more money to modernize old buildings and update more elevators. UM could contract an additional elevator technician, enlist more grounds crew for snow clearing and hire more ODE coordinators to lighten their caseloads.

Until UM works to meet the bare minimum and allow all its students and staff freedom of movement on campus, it is not truly accessible for everyone.

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at griffen.smith@umontana.edu.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

College GameDay coming to Bozeman, Mansfield Center awarded \$7.5 million grant, Missoula crisis services in limbo

EMILY TSCHETTER
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ESPN'S COLLEGE GAMEDAY TO VISIT BOZEMAN FOR BRAWL OF THE WILD

ESPN's college pregame show will visit Montana for the first time to preview the 121st Brawl of the Wild. The show College GameDay announced on Sunday that it will set up shop in Bozeman on Nov. 19, and will feature a studio with a live audience on Montana State University's campus. Last year many fans thought GameDay would visit the University of Montana for the Cat-Griz game. It stirred a large campaign on social media, but the show chose Michigan State versus Ohio State in the end. This year the Big Sky Conference led the push for the show's presence online with both U.S. senators representing Montana contributing. Montana is ranked No. 16 in the FCS at 7-3 this week after beating Eastern Washington, and MSU is ranked No. 3 at 9-1 after beating Cal Poly. UM beat the Bobcats 29-10 last year after MSU won the Cat-Griz game four years in a row.

MANSFIELD CENTER AWARDED \$7.5 MILLION FOR SCHOLAR EXCHANGES

The U.S. Department of State awarded UM's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center a \$7.5 million grant to oversee a series of institutes boosting global understanding. The grant contributes to the Mansfield Center's status as the top UM organization in research expenditures this year, which supports the University's recent Research 1 status. UM will create six multi-week institutes for the next three years to serve more than 300 foreign scholars and foreign faculty members. The Mansfield Center will oversee institutes at Arizona State University, the University of Delaware, the Institute for Training and Development in Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts and New York University. Partner themes for other universities UM will work with include sustainability, economics, media, U.S. foreign policy, American politics and U.S. culture.

The grant program falls under the Study of the U.S. Institutes branch to promote national foreign policy goals by helping foreign audiences understand U.S. culture and people. UM received the grant because of the Mansfield

Center's success with a prior three-year grant. Nearly 60 scholars were a part of the Mansfield SUSI program in the past three years.

MISSOULA CRISIS LEVY FAILS, LEAVES SERVICES UP IN THE AIR

The Missoula crisis services levy failed on election day by about 4,000 votes, putting funding for temporary living spaces and various crisis advocates in jeopardy. The levy would have supported the Johnson Street Emergency Winter Shelter, the Temporary Safe Outdoor Space opening in the spring, the Mobile Support Team that responds to urgent behavioral health needs and the Crime Victim Advocate Program. The levy would have increased property taxes by \$27 a year for every \$100,000 home value, raising \$5 million each year. All these programs are funded through July 2023, with the TSOS being funded through 2025, but funding beyond that time remains up in the air. City Council also saved \$900,000 in American Rescue Plan funds in the case the levy didn't pass. The same night the levy failed on Nov. 8, the Missoulia reported the winter shelter on Johnson Street housed 30 more people than its busiest night last year, with 135 individuals looking for cover from the winter conditions. County Commissioner Josh Slotnick told the Missoulia that commissioners are willing to divert funding from other areas because of the programs' importance for vulnerable residents. The Missoula Tenants Union is looking to support homeless Missoulians through mutual aid funds, and the Partnership

Health Center and other local organizations are fielding donations to address the needs the levy sought to address.

UM INDIGENOUS STUDENT-FOCUSED PROGRAMS RECEIVE TECHNICAL SKILLS FOUNDATION GIFT

The Cognizant Foundation, an information technology firm's philanthropy effort to support underserved populations with industry-relevant education, gifted UM with \$250,000 for STEM success for Montana's Indigenous population. The gift contributed to the Montana American Indians in Math and Science program, known as MT AIMS, which supports indigenous middle and high school students in their transition into STEM higher education. The grant will also help launch the Indigenous First-Year Experience program, which will connect first-year Indigenous students at UM with advisers and resources to ensure success in the beginning of their college careers. The new program will include a seminar class, weekly tutoring and extra peer and faculty mentoring. The 2022 MT AIMS summer camp saw 85 Montana students participate between sixth through 10th grade, and it will open up to 11th and 12th grades next year. The program hopes to serve 500 students each summer by 2030, according to the Director of Indigenous Research and STEM Education Aaron Thomas. These programs support UM's Excellence in Native American Education Plan, which aims to offer more resources and student services to Indigenous students. Since 2018, the University's Native American student enrollment has risen by 26% and retention has increased by 17%.

POLICE BLOTTER

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It's a winter wonderland in Missoula, and the University of Montana Police Department is responding as quickly as it can to the changing seasons. Officers did a little bit of everything, from helping campus adapt to the snow to arresting thieves. Here are four reports that UMPD responded to from Nov. 4 to Nov. 9.

11/4 TO 11/7: THE BIKE THIEF
UMPD responded to three separate cases of bike theft across campus throughout the week. The first was reported on Friday, Nov. 4, at the University Center bike rack. Then a second bike was stolen sometime between Nov. 4 and Nov. 7 near Lommasson building, and a third near Turner Hall sometime in the same time frame. All three of these cases have unknown suspects, so keep your eyes for someone cutting locks off of undeserving bikes. Winter is coming, and hopefully the thieves slipped a few times while they rode off. It may be time to bring those bikes inside.

11/5 TO 11/9: WINTER WEATHER
Snow and the cold finally overtook Missoula, which left UMPD responding to a multitude of winter related incidents. UMPD responded to multiple reports of power outages, heating issues, and water not running. Officers also saw an uptick of assists to help jump cars as batteries gave out on people with the change in temperatures. One silver lining is there was only one reported minor car crash on campus with the influx of snow coming in. Grizzlies will continue to adapt and thrive as winter rages on, and for those who don't want to, at least you can begin hibernation when classes wrap up next month.

SATURDAY 11/5: BONKERS BREAK-IN
UMPD responded to a student's call that a non-student had trespassed into their dorm room at Miller Hall when they went to the bathroom. The student had left their door open for a short period of time, and upon returning from the porcelain throne found someone sitting inside. The student quickly shooed the person out and called UMPD. As officers responded to the call, they noticed the man in the closest parking lot jumping into another student's car. The thief attempted to steal a backpack out of the car, but was ultimately arrested by UMPD. Two attempted thefts makes you wonder if they were just doing it for the thrill of it. At least he was innovative and tried to pivot to plan B.

WEDNESDAY 11/9: DOIN' DOUGHNUTS
At 9:30 p.m. on Nov. 9, UMPD received a report of a red car driving recklessly in parking lot H. The car was reportedly having some fun spinning brodies in the. Officers that responded were never able to locate the car or the reported drifters. Testing out your car's traction control can be fun, but maybe choose a less populated lot away from other cars you could hit.

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

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ACROSS

- 1 Baghdad native

5 "Get lost!"

10 Morse code bit

14 Scowl

15 Weather, to a poet

16 Watson of Harry Potter films

17 Airborne force

19 Go up against

20 Drunk as a skunk

21 Stored fodder

23 Attach, as a patch

24 Carries weight

26 "Semper Fi" group

30 Moral misstep

33 Symphony member

34 Comic Carvey

35 Give the slip

37 Hillary's successor

39 Saints' grp.

40 Ocean's motions

41 Santa player in "Elf"

42 Flooring piece

44 Farm animal

45 Clifford's color

46 Rose, Dorothy, Blanche, and Sophia

49 Removable locks

51 Hair product

52 Saturn, for one

54 Grand style

58 Holds up

59 Native

62 Archipelago part

63 "Alfie" star Michael

64 Pack down
- 65 Sprinter's event

66 Go over the limit?

67 Craftsy etailer
- DOWN

1 Austrian peaks

2 Wander about

3 Special glow

4 Lingerie top

5 Out of luck, slangily

6 Lump of dirt

7 ____ de Janiero

8 Band aid?

9 Bungle

10 Passed out

11 Envoy's superior

12 Full of oneself

13 Utterly detest

18 Now and ____

22 Miniature map

24 Tell in secret

25 All-knowing one

26 Back biter

27 Humiliate
- 28 Knights' gathering spot

29 Rear of a saddle

31 Standard

32 Crows' homes

36 Self-appointed lawman

38 Make a point

43 Soon to get hitched

47 Concern for a P.R. team

48 Trait carrier

50 Beginning

52 Proper's partner

53 Dieter's desire

54 Captain Kirk portrayer

55 Layer of paint

56 Runs well, as an engine

57 Sports award

60 Catch a few Z's

61 Fizzle out

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Pardoned Turkey-o-scope

ELINOR SMITH
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Every Thanksgiving on the White House lawn, the president stares a turkey right in its beady little eyes and lets it go free. Fuck the Super Bowl and McDonald's; there is no greater American tradition than the pardoning of the turkeys. We bet you're wondering, "Which pardoned turkey would I be based on my astrological sign?" An obvious question. Only the stars can solve your poultry plight.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):
You're the poor nameless turkey Richard Nixon nailed to the table when it freaked out. We'd try to get away, too, if we were that close to Richard Nixon. We're sorry you're nameless and maimed, but at least you weren't eaten with a side of cranberry sauce. How much do you want to bet that they had to nail Nixon's feet to the floor while he resigned after Watergate, too?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):
You're Charlie, the turkey pardoned by Ronald Reagan. Just like the rest of Reaganomics, economy-obsessed and arguably misguided depending on who you ask, you're a Capricorn. Reagan planted some crack under your wing when you weren't looking. You may be pardoned, but you're not free. When you ask him later on, Reagan will say it's just like turkeys to have crack. There's nooooo wayyyy he could've been involved.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20-FEB 18):
Gobble Gobble, daddy's boy. Pardoned by Abraham Lincoln, you're Jack the turkey. In true Aquarius nature, you just have to start the trend. You better be happy that Tad Lincoln took an interest in you, or else Mary would've cooked you in the White House oven. Enjoy nepotism in action. We'd call you a lucky duck, but the metaphor doesn't quite work. Lucky Turkey?

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):
You're Perdue Pete, pardoned by Jimmy Carter in 1978. Both empathetic and closed-off just like Carter, you're a Pisces. Pardoning you was the most important thing Carter could've done in office. In fact, it was the only important thing he did in office. Fuck the Iran hostage crisis. Who can worry about captive citizens in a time like this? The turkey needs to be pardoned NOW.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):
You're Corn, pardoned by Donald Trump. It's time you sit back, relax and try not to fundamentally damage U.S. democracy any further. Now that you're off scot-free, we would like to know where you were on Jan. 6, 2021. We promise we won't be mad.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):
You're Stars, the patriotic, post 9/11 Turkey pardoned by George W. Bush. You were pardoned during a pretty fragile time in American history, so not many know about you. Instead of the war on terror, you should use your patriotic plume to rally support for

the war on Thanksgiving. That way, none of your turkey friends will ever need to be pardoned again.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):
You're the two turkeys, Peanut Butter and Jelly, pardoned by Joe Biden in 2021. Obviously, you're a Gemini. Be glad Biden made the pardon call before his geriatric ass dropped dead on the White House lawn. Do you think Jill Biden calls him "sleepy Joe" after he eats too much turkey on Thanksgiving? Probably not, but we can still make fun of him for being old as dirt.

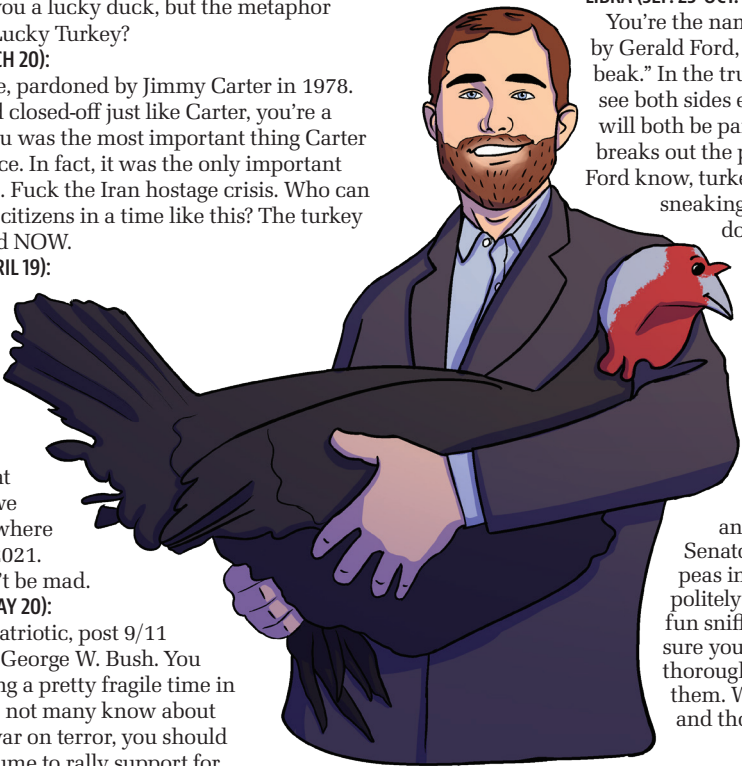
CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):
There was another turkey on the grassy knoll. You're the nameless turkey we'll dub "good eating, Mr. President" after the sign around your neck. We wish Kennedy would have outlived the turkey he pardoned, but you can't always get what you want. We know who pardoned the bird, but the question remains, who shot the president?

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):
You're Jerry the Turkey, pardoned by Bill Clinton. The only thing steamier than the gravy is that eye contact you guys are making across the pardon table. It's just like you to try and fuck the president. We don't know what else to expect from a Leo. Next thing you know, Jerry will be wearing a blue-stained dress next Thanksgiving, right in front of Hillary too.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22):
You're Abe, pardoned by Barack Obama. You're the cock of the walk now that you won't be filled with stuffing. Just like the rest of the Virgos, Obama took special organized care in choosing which turkey not to murder. Just be glad you didn't get hit by a drone shot on the way to Thanksgiving dinner.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22):
You're the nameless turkey pardoned by Gerald Ford, who we'll dub "deep-beak." In the true Libra nature, you see both sides equally. You and Nixon will both be pardoned before grandma breaks out the pumpkin pie. Little did Ford know, turkeys are really good at

sneaking through locked hotel doors and planting tiny microphones. There's no correlation, though, right?
SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21):
You're the nameless turkey pardoned by Dwight Eisenhower, who we'll name "capitalist." Just like the ideology you're named after, you're passionate and determined. You and Senator Joe McCarthy are peas in a pod, and Eisenhower politely ignored you both. Have fun sniffing out commies, we're sure you'll be very accurate and thorough before you blacklist them. Wait, you ARE accurate and thorough, right? Right?!?




MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Can't get enough? Start listening.

This week on **THE KAIMIN CAST**, tune in with Alyssa Tompkins for a deeper look into the gardens at the UC.

Next week, meet our new audio reporter Clay Murphy as he dives into UM's Bug Club.

THE KAIMIN CAST



New episodes out Monday. Scan for the latest.

Bertha chronicles continue in piney revenge from the foresters

CHRISTINE COMPTON
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Trees in toilets. Branches framing the stolen head of Bertha, hanging from the law school balcony. Tree slabs with the messages, “Foresters Once,” and “Here’s some legal vocab for you: ‘reprisal,’ ‘disproportionate,’ ‘response.’” All in the name of revenge.

On Nov. 3, University of Montana law students stole beloved moose head and campus icon Bertha from the Forestry Building in a near century-long heist tradition. On the evening of Nov. 8, forestry students struck back.

The tradition of stealing Bertha goes back to the 1920s when she was first gifted to UM’s forestry club by famous German forester Carl Schenck, who founded the first forestry school in the United States and taught two semesters at UM.

Her hulking 60-pound bust stands at about half the height of an adult human, lined with dark hair and wide antlers that cup forward. As the gorgeous pride of the Foresters’ Club, she was kidnapped by several campus groups starting in the 1930s, but the law students became the most prolific capturers. The snatching of Bertha is usually planned around the annual Foresters’ Ball, a hallmark event for forestry students that Bertha would be loath to miss.

The same night Bertha was stolen this year, a group chat of Foresters’ Ball planners and students burst into activity, first-year student Chyanne Austin said. Ideas on retaliation were thrown left and right, including both serious and sarcastic suggestions.

Some students wondered if they could get class credit for capturing deer and squirrels to set loose in the law building. Austin remembers being baffled at how many male students wanted to pee on the doors.

But the foresters were looking to keep things classy. The Foresters’ Ball committee president, Mason Banks, made the ultimate decision on their plans and sent students on divide-and-conquer missions to get ready for their night of revenge.

Students filled several trash bags full of leaves, and some heisters gathered trees and limbs from a prescribed burn spot. An ominous taunt was posted on the Instagram account ForestersBall1915, the account used by the Foresters’ Ball committee to boost hype about the annual event. They posted a single picture of a pine branch with the hashtag “JusticeForBertha.”

The students met at 11 p.m. on Nov. 8 just outside the law school building. One drove a trailer full of logging debris that would be carried by the bag-full into the building. A

woman waiting for the students let them inside and gave the pranksters a run down on rules. Austin said all the guidelines were understandable, like no chainsaw grease on door knobs or trees touching the ceiling, which would be a fire hazard.

After that, students flew across the building, laughter and rustling bags echoing in the nighttime hallways. Austin worked on framing Bertha’s stolen bust in trees while others replaced flags with thin trees. Even more trees were shoved into the toilets. At the end of the night, the vengeful foresters took pictures and posted their plot on the Foresters’ Ball Instagram.

“Revenge is best served with trees!” the Instagram caption read. “After the lawyers stole our beloved Bertha last week, we had to respond, and respond we did! We turned the Law School into a beautiful forest, complete with both coniferous and deciduous touches. Everyone had an absolute blast and we even gave the lawyers some assistance in cleaning up!”

On the day following, Austin remembers her phone buzzing with joyful updates as foresters witnessed law students’ reactions. Foresters cleaned up the vegetation vandalism shortly after the heist. While the revenge itself was short-lived, some foresters gloated on social media and smiled long after they swept up the needles.

While vengeance is theirs, it’s not the end of the fun for foresters at UM. Over the next few months, students will prepare for the Foresters’ Ball, a woodsy, flannel-esque event where students build a logger’s village, swing dance and party before taking it all down — all in a matter of days.

It’s the first ball since COVID-19, and students say they’re eager to reconnect with the long-held tradition. That’s the part Banks is most excited for, he said. The ball is scheduled for Feb. 3-4, 2023 and is open to the public. All can buy tickets on GrizTix now.

“We’re bringing back something great,” Banks said.



ABOVE: Foresters add flags and pine needles behind Bertha the Moose at the Law School. The moose is usually at the front entrance of the Forestry School, but law students successfully moved Bertha to the Law School earlier this semester.



KOSON VERKLER | CONTRIBUTED

Student Friendsgiving Meal

All students welcome!
Let us know you're coming via GrizHub!

- Can't make it home for the holiday?
- Want a hot meal?
- Looking for a safe community?



Tuesday 11/22 3:00 - 5:00 PM
UC Commons

Sponsored by the Office of the Vice Provost for Campus Life



Military appreciation week sweeps through campus

CAVEN WADE
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The University of Montana honored its veterans and military-affiliated populations more than in past years with an entire week of events ahead of Veterans Day.

The University’s Military and Veteran Services Office and the Army Reserve Officers’ Training Corps hosted a dog-tag-making work shop, a luncheon and a raffle for prizes throughout the week.

“We just want to help bridge that gap between student veterans and other people on campus,” said Patrick Beckwith, director of the UM Military and Veteran Services Office.

This year the University elected to do military appreciation week, instead of sticking with celebrations only on Veterans Day. The Griz have one of the largest military presences throughout campus, with 1,400 military-affiliated students.

The University used to mainly host a Veterans Day memorial service, but last year it didn’t draw others from outside the military community the way Beckwith and his team hoped. Veterans make up 8% of Montana’s total population, according to the Veteran Affairs office.

“The goal of this week is to get student veterans connected with other students,”

Beckwith said.

Tanner Liermann is a 24-year-old student veteran studying wildlife biology, and helped organize the week’s events.

“I’m just trying to help acknowledge the fact that we served in some aspect, while also showing support to those who served before me,” Liermann said. In regard to what he enjoys the most about Veterans Day, he said, “It’s nice to get recognized on a college campus for my service.”

Liermann gave out free coffee and doughnuts while selling raffle tickets in the University Center. He partnered with members of ROTC to help others personalize dog tags for \$5.

The University also hosted veterans luncheons and presentations on what it means to serve.

Other military-focused programs at UM look to address the difficulties for people after they’ve finished serving. According to the U.S. Veterans Affairs Office’s 2020 data, Montana has one of the highest rates per capita of veteran suicide in the country. The national rate has increased by 95% over the past 20 years.

That’s why UM recently opened a Veterans Affairs care telehealth site to help military-affiliated people with mental health appointments and general care. UM Mortar Board also hosted a veteran book drive this week



UM students became National Guard members during half time. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

with donations to the Missoula Vet Center, which offers free counseling to service members and their families.

The week of celebrations came to an end when the Griz football team did a salute to service during last weekend’s game against Eastern Washington.

While this was a special and unusual take on military appreciation week, Beckwith doesn’t know what the future plans for the

week and the holiday will be at the University. According to him, he needs to look at the individual events and what drew in the most engagement before looking to the future of the holiday on campus.

“I’m all about doing things well. Doing a lot of events isn’t necessarily the answer, Beckwith said, “I just want it to be meaningful to student veterans, and be engaging to the rest of the campus community.”

UM looks to collect 500,000 pounds of food to ‘Can the Cats’ in annual food drive competition

EMILY TSCHETTER
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After a strong showing last year, the University of Montana is looking to out-raise Bozeman in food donations in this year’s Can the Cats drive leading up to the Brawl of the Wild football game.

The food drive competition is in its 23rd year. Last year, UM raised more than 583,000 pounds of food for the Missoula Food Bank and the UM Food Pantry. However, Bozeman raised 642,000 pounds last year and has won 18 out of the 22 competitions held so far.

The Missoula Food Bank data and development manager Rebecca Paquette is confi-

dent Missoula can pull out the win this year.

“It’s lots of fun because it brings out people’s competitive fun spirit with the competition between Bozeman and UM that we love,” Paquette said. “We love the participation that we’re able to get with the whole University community from students to alumni.”

Can the Cats is the Missoula Food Bank’s biggest drive of the year, and the food bank has recorded the highest need in its entire 40 years serving Missoula in 2022. The food bank serves one-in-four people in Missoula County, and Paquette said the goal is to raise 500,000 pounds during the drive.

Paquette said the food bank has a particular need for frozen turkeys, canned green

beans, potatoes, carrots, onions, flour, rice and canned soup. She said much of what people raise during Can the Cats will be used beyond winter to cover needs in the spring and summer months when they see fewer donations and drives.

The Missoula Food Bank partners with the UM Food Pantry during Can the Cats, and any food donated on campus will stay in the food pantry for students to access. ASUM Bear Necessities director Kat Cowley said they raised about 400 pounds through last weekend’s football game, and they are looking for canned protein like beans, tuna and chicken, along with spices, cooking oils and fresh produce.

“Our shelves haven’t looked this full in a

long time. It’s definitely going well,” Cowley said. “We’re just really grateful for the community turning out and helping provide both variety and a lot of staple options to keep us going through the rest of the school year.”

Missoulians can help Can the Cats until kickoff on Saturday by visiting the Missoula Food Bank website to donate money online and see the locations where they can drop off their non-perishables. The UM Food Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

BIASED ARCHITECTURE

History, weather and the cost of accessibility upgrades throw barriers in the path of disabled students

Story by Andy Tallman
Photos by Lukas Prinos



Skylar Tibbs sits at one of the entrances outside of her Montana history class in LA 11 where she could not watch the lecture on Oct. 7. **GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SKYLAR TIBBS, a freshman psychology major, attended her Montana history class Oct. 7 from the top of a set of stairs at the entrance of the basement lecture hall, right inside the door. Her professor led the class out of view on the other side.

All she could see was a sliver of students who kept looking up at her in confusion. “I know that class period I didn’t soak in as much as I could have,” Tibbs, 18, said. “There was something that felt so degrading about having to sit there.”

Tibbs has Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, a genetic disorder that affects the peripheral nervous system. She usually uses a powered wheelchair because walking is only an option for her on a good day. Even then, stairs can be a gamble.

On Oct. 10, Tibbs’ friend and classmate, Keely Proebstel, 24, gave her a look when she arrived at the Liberal Arts building. Tibbs knew the elevator wasn’t working again. She descended the stairs that time, worrying the entire time about the potential to fall and the risk of leaving her \$46,000 power chair at the top of the stairs.

“I shouldn’t have to risk hurting myself to get the same things everybody else gets,” she said.

The elevator didn’t respond to the button for the next class on Oct. 12. The Facilities Services work order desk told Tibbs the elevator had already been fixed. The elevator moved, but the buttons weren’t fully functional.

Proebstel, who uses a cane to walk, was able to descend the stairs. Tibbs needed someone to press the button at the bottom of the elevator for her to attend class. By the

time Proebstel reached the bottom of the stairs, the class’s teaching assistant figured out how to get the elevator moving.

It’s not the first time Tibbs has faced a barrier due to a broken elevator.

“I’ve had issues with accessibility on campus from day one,” Tibbs said.

In the aging buildings on campus, elevators and lift breakdowns happen frequently. At least one elevator has been offline for the entire fall semester. This year, with replacement parts delayed by up to a year because of supply chain issues, mechanical problems are worse than ever.

For some on campus, the breakdowns are more than an inconvenience.

FROM DAY ONE

When Tibbs visited the University of Montana as a high school student, she got stuck in the Food Zoo lift for 45 minutes. This was a major factor to consider when she was choosing colleges, but she still ended up at UM.

“Bozeman is even worse,” Tibbs said. “There’s gonna be issues everywhere.”

Talking with Office of Disability Equity Director Amy Capolupo and hearing positive experiences with students in ODE made Tibbs feel that UM was still a place she could flourish.

But on her first day in the dorms this fall, Tibbs had to sleep in a first-floor guest suite. Her room was inaccessible because the Pantzer Hall elevator had been used so much during move-in day that the oil overheated,



Keely Proebstel uses the Miller elevator to get to her dorm room. The elevator can take a long time to arrive and sometimes stops on the fourth floor for no reason, she said.

causing it to break down.

“If this is only night one, what’s gonna happen other times throughout the year?” Tibbs recalled wondering that first night on campus.

Melina Peck, a student on the third floor of Pantzer with cerebral palsy and who uses a power chair, stayed with her parents in Florence the first week of school because of the elevator outage. Tibbs’ parents were farther down the Bitterroot Valley in her hometown of Corvallis.

On Tibbs’ second day on campus, she got stuck in Urey Lecture Hall for two hours during orientation because of a broken elevator. Her residence hall director, Lee Bodge, helped her contact facilities services and find a different exit.

On the evening of Oct. 29, she and Proebstel spent 30 minutes in the Food Zoo elevator before the fire department rescued her. The elevator doors opened just fine — but only onto a floor where stairs were the only exit.

“I never had a fear of elevators before this campus,” Tibbs said.

UPS AND DOWNS

This year, elevators have been problematic.

“That hasn’t always been true,” said Capolupo, the director of the Office for Disability Equity.

When an elevator outage is reported to facilities services during business hours, it then lets ODE know, according to UM Facilities Services Director Paul Trumbley. ODE sends out an email to all students on the UM

access updates mailing list.

Since last November, 43 such emails have been sent out. This does not include outages on weekends or outside normal business hours. If an elevator breaks outside of those hours, it goes through UM Police dispatch and doesn’t end up in the emails.

Plenty of breakages aren’t in those emails. There is no record of the Pantzer and Miller elevator outages that Tibbs and Proebstel encountered. There was never any email sent out about the Eck Hall basement outage, even though it took place during business hours.

Whenever the outage occurs, it’s handled by UM’s 24-hour on-call elevator technician from the Schindler Elevator Corporation, Larry Henley. In the case of the Urey elevator outage during orientation, he was called away from a dentist appointment. Servicing elevators requires certifications that no one at UM has.

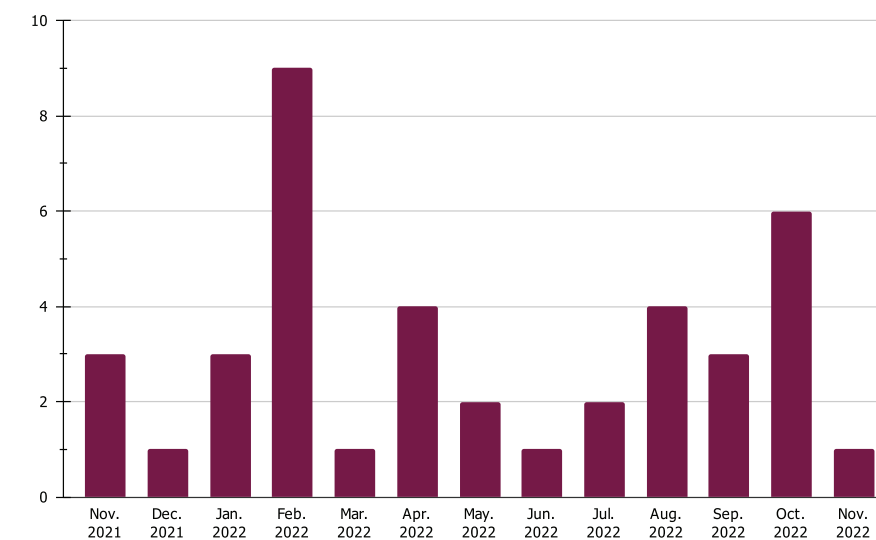
Each elevator is checked and serviced by Henley at least once a month. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act is expensive. That 1990 law bans discrimination based on disabilities. It’s even more expensive this year. With supply chain issues, parts are delayed.

“In 20 years, this is the first time I’ve dealt with that, where we couldn’t get the parts,” Capolupo said.

After the Pantzer elevator overheated on move-in day, UM Housing decided to install a cooling system. UM Housing could not get the parts until the beginning of October, about six weeks later. Housing completed the \$9,100 system around Oct. 14.

Housing did some additional work in Pantzer. Someone reported that the fire doors at the end of each hallway, which

Elevator down reports



The number of down elevators and lifts between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays is sent out by the Office of Disability Equity. However, several reports of broken elevators given by students in this story were never listed. Source: Office of Disability Equity

close during an alarm or drill, were troublesome for students in wheelchairs to open, according to Jameel Chaudhry, associate director of planning, design and construction for Facilities Services. Housing adjusted the door closures so they required less than five pounds of force to open.

Early last spring, Facilities Services first logged that the elevator in the Social Sciences building was broken. It would be fixed in two to three days, according to an email sent on Feb. 23. Now, it's down for the entire fall semester, due to supply chain issues, according to Facilities Services.

"We're at the mercy of the contractor and equipment world," Paul Trumbley said.

Supply chain issues exacerbated the existing high cost of ADA upgrades. According to law, buildings built after 1991 need to be handicap accessible. Buildings built before 1991 need to be updated for accessibility, if that update can be reasonably accomplished without too much expense.

But a single elevator update can cost \$1 million or more — and with the average age of a campus building hovering at 60 years old, there are plenty of elevators that need updating or buildings that don't have elevators.

"Funding has always been our weak point," Chaudhry said. "If you gave us \$10 million every two years we would blow through that easily."

Every two years, Facilities Services submits funding requests to the state of Montana. It's competing for limited money with other entities in the Montana University System, which makes up two-thirds of the square footage of state-owned buildings in Montana.

Once UM gets its share, accessibility updates compete with other vital maintenance needs like fixing roofs or updating fire alarm systems. Some years, Facilities Services gets \$1-\$1.5 million. Sometimes the office gets nothing from the state, according to Chaudhry. There is no specific funding earmarked for ADA updates.

"The entirety of the Facilities Services

operations budget can be available for this work," Paula Short, associate vice president of campus preparedness and response, wrote in an email. "Additionally, we have funding avenues, such as the Long Range Building Program (LRBP), which provides for both major repair and capital development projects."

Short said that the Clapp Building elevator modernization is funded through LRBP. There is also funding from bonds and the facilities fee.

Reggie Herbert, a UM alumnus who is blind, found new buildings on campus to be more or less accessible. It's the old buildings that cause issues. Herbert understands that they can't all be redesigned, but said he finds it telling that many buildings require anyone who can't use stairs to use back doors.

"The bias is implicit in the architecture," Herbert said.

GROUND LEVEL

Proebstel, a sophomore elementary education major from Colorado Springs, uses a cane to walk. She has no concrete diagnosis, but has connective tissue issues — the tissue around her kneecaps is gone, which makes walking painful. Technically, she can take stairs, but they can be a risk.

On Sept. 6, a blaring fire alarm woke Proebstel from a nap in her room in Miller Hall. She thought there was a fire and rushed out of her dorm to the stairs without putting on her knee braces. Between her fast pace, her lack of braces and being knocked around into walls and students, she partially dislocated both her kneecaps.

Once she got outside, she learned the alarm had been a drill. The elevators would have technically been working, but fire doors automatically close in front of the elevator doors on each floor.

She went back inside and found the first floor fire door was still closed. An RA told her that the elevator was working, and the

second floor fire door should be open.

It was. But the elevator didn't work. Proebstel went floor by floor on dislocated kneecaps, checking the elevator each time. The buttons didn't light up. The elevator didn't respond.

According to Michael Harwood, director of fiscal and facility operations for UM housing, there was no reason that Proebstel would have been prevented from using the elevator during and after the drill.

Residents are supposed to act as if a fire drill is a real alarm, where the elevator would return to the ground floor and become unresponsive, but elevators do not shut down during a drill. Harwood received no report of the Miller elevator being unresponsive afterward, and it didn't appear in the duty log.

Later, an errant fire alarm woke Tibbs in Pantzer Hall. Tibbs was in bed at the time, and made her way to the stairwell, where she was supposed to wait for rescue in the area of rescue assistance.

"You are entirely dependent on other people to come and save you," Tibbs said.

The only reason she didn't panic was because she couldn't smell smoke. She decided to make her way down the stairs and eventually cleared the building, worrying about a dangerous fall the whole time.

Since then, Tibbs has been working with housing and the Office of Disability Equity to get first-floor housing. But there just aren't any unoccupied accessible first-floor dorms across campus. Housing has been particularly tight this year. According to Melissa Neidigh, UM Housing's associate director of operations, it was harder than ever this year to get disabled students into accessible housing due to increased demand.

"There's nowhere on campus for me to go," Tibbs said. She's looking at moving into Lewis and Clark Villages.

In Pantzer and Miller, accessible rooms are located on every floor. Accessible living space on all floors is becoming standard practice in accessible construction, as it doesn't limit disabled students to just the first floor and offers them more choice, according to Harwood.

"It creates a more inclusive environment for students in wheelchairs," Harwood said.

EVOLUTION

Chaudhry has worked at UM for 27 years. For buildings with no elevators, Chaudhry wants to follow the example set by Facilities Services' work on the mathematics building around 2002.

Before this work, the mathematics building, which is over a century old, had no elevator and its only bathrooms were in the inaccessible basement. Facilities cobbled together enough money to build a south end

addition with an elevator and a bathroom on every floor. It cost \$1.5 million. Today, Chaudhry said, it might cost three or four times more.

Leanne Beers went to UM from 1992 to 1996. Her daughter, Jessica Beers, started in 2017 and graduated in 2020. They both use power chairs due to Dejerine-Sottas syndrome, a demyelination disease that falls under the umbrella of muscular dystrophy. Their experiences on campus were different.

"I hit a lot of walls with class and professors," Leanne said.

Leanne was once placed in a math class on the third floor of the Forestry Building, which has no elevator. When she asked to switch classrooms after missing classes due to inaccessibility, the professor told her to get her priorities straight and refused. Leanne dropped that class and had to retake it later.

Now, there's a system in place to ensure disabled students aren't placed in inaccessible buildings, according to ADA Team co-chairs Kate Duran and Hilly McGahan. A tag is added to their IDs in Banner, and the Registrar's Office can move class locations to ensure no mobility-impaired student ends up in a building without a working elevator.

For example, if a mobility-impaired student ends up in a class on upper floors of Rankin Hall or the Forestry Building, that class would be moved. This year, upper and lower floors of the Social Sciences and Clapp buildings are also inaccessible.

Classes can also be moved if an elevator goes down mid-semester for an extended period of time or a student becomes newly disabled, like if they break a leg, Capolupo said.

Leanne described her online Ph.D. through Walden University from 2015 to 2017 as "like night and day" in terms of accessibility. When she had to go to conferences, they ensured that all her accommodations and events were accessible with room for a care attendant.

Jessica Beers lived on campus for her first year at UM, and had a far smoother experience than her mother.

Overall, Jessica enjoyed her experience at UM. She found the campus to be fairly accessible, especially newer buildings, though she ran across some barriers. "Looking back, it's all small potatoes," Jessica said.

During her campus tour, Jessica, accompanied by her mom, wasn't shown fully accessible rooms. They ran into someone from housing by the Food Zoo. When Leanne commented that the bathrooms were inaccessible, that person offered to show them the accessible bathroom and laundry rooms.

"The accessibility is getting better, but there's still a lack of communication," Leanne said.

All tours are supposed to show accessible rooms, regardless of if the students taking the tours are disabled or not, according to Capolupo, the ODE director.



Skylar Tibbs works at her desk in her room. Her single room in Pantzer is outfitted for more accessibility with a powered door and more space.

"This is the most accessible place I've ever been," said Nicolas Kuster, a senior studying political science with a minor in journalism. Kuster has cerebral palsy and uses a power chair.

THE LITTLE THINGS

When snow clogs the pathways, the grounds crew clears priority routes first. Snow can be a barrier to anyone traversing UM's campus with mobility impairments.

"It's the small things that make the big difference," Leanne Beers said.

On Nov. 9, Tibbs' wheelchair got stuck in the snow outside Eck Hall, on a sidewalk that's marked as a priority snow removal route. She got stuck again outside Lommason Center a few minutes later. Both times, she sought the help of passing students to dislodge her chair.

Tibbs remarked that getting stuck in the snow shows her both the good and bad of UM's student body. Some people will stop to push her out, but some will just walk by. On Nov. 9, one person even took photos of her without her permission while she was stuck.

On Nov. 10, Tibbs was 10 minutes late to a test in ODE's accessible testing location in Aber because she got stuck in the snow outside the Mansfield Library.

Kuster said that he also gets stuck in the snow sometimes, but is able to flag students down to help push him out.

Even when snow is cleared, there can be issues. Even a small amount of snow on a ramp or hill can cause the small wheels on the back of a power chair to spin out, according to Bonnie Kelley, a UM graduate who uses a power chair and works for the Rule Institute. Even a little bit of snow left at the

junction of a sidewalk and ramp can ice over into a barrier inches thick.

Bathrooms are also a barrier. Leanne Beers said she's rarely been in a bathroom where she can actually close the stall door.

Many "accessible" bathrooms at UM aren't truly accessible, according to Tibbs. Some Duniway, Aber, Miller and Mansfield Library bathrooms are hard for her to use in her wheelchair. She can't easily open the Eck Hall bathrooms, and has hurt herself a few times doing so.

She just barely fits in the Urey bathroom. Sometimes, she struggles to use the bathroom locks, and says they might be hard for someone with low dexterity.

"Our archnemesis is doors," Tibbs said. When Leanne Beers was at UM, the bricks on the Oval were inaccessible for her wheelchair. The same went for Jessica Beers, as her casters could catch on loose bricks, but those were leveled while she was at UM. Kelley still cannot drive her power chair over the Oval bricks.

"I drive with reckless abandonment so I just don't care," Kuster said.

Leanne and Jessica Beers both said that people will often place things in front of the accessible door buttons. Leanne said that there's often a garbage can in front of the Eck door button.

This year, Tibbs and Proebstel could not attend homecoming because the accessible door to the Schreiber Gym was locked.

"There's a lot of things that people don't think about until something comes up, because they simply don't have to deal with that problem," Kuster said.

But invisibility isn't the worst-case scenario. Sometimes malice is the problem, not ignorance.

Tibbs said she's sometimes accused of

faking her disability when she gets out of her power chair or walks in front of other people.

On Oct. 23, while walking to the Food Zoo, Proebstel passed a man who was huffing and glaring at her. She gave him the benefit of the doubt, assuming he was having a bad day. As they passed each other, she felt him spit in her hair.

Proebstel was in shock. She got into the Food Zoo elevator and forgot to press the button as she searched for an explanation. People had made rude comments to her about her cane before, but they'd never done something this egregious.

"It was really dehumanizing," Proebstel said.

She reported it to UMPD, not wanting to believe it was because of her cane, but they said it likely was. UMPD was unable to find the culprit. Proebstel found out they'd closed the case. It was logged as assault with bodily fluid.

"I went through about a two-week period where I was talking to my mom about wanting to shave my head," Proebstel said.

For a while, whenever she was around people she didn't trust, Proebstel put her hood up and hid her hair.

Proebstel now works at the Food Zoo. She's seen the spitter since — she has to swipe him in for meals. She said he doesn't seem to recognize her.

MOVING FORWARD

"Here's what I'll say: There's always room for improvement when you live in a world that's made for people that can walk on two feet, that is built by people who can walk on two feet, because most people in the world can walk on two feet," Kuster said.

If Capolupo had infinite money, she'd upgrade all the old buildings and make sure every building had at least two elevators.

"If we design a new residence hall, we will have at least two elevators in the building," Harwood said.

Capolupo would also like to see the University do a self-evaluation and transition plan for ADA compliance. A plan like this was last done in 2004. Capolupo has requested another one from the ADA Team, which serves as the ADA coordinator for UM. Every government organization is required to have one.

Accessibility is tackled by many organizations across campus — ODE, Facilities Services, the ADA Team and individual professors. ODE works with about 1,500 students, with three coordinators. Capolupo also takes on a limited caseload.

Every disabled student and recent alum the Kaimin talked to said they have had positive experiences with ODE.

"Disability services has a thousand times improved since I was here," Leanne Beers

said.

But 1,500 students is a lot for four people. Tibbs said it could take her weeks to get an appointment with her coordinator, and there's only so much a small team with limited resources can do.

Herbert, the blind UM graduate, said that ODE absolutely doesn't have enough resources, funding, staffing and University support.

"They don't have enough recognition for the services they provide," Herbert said.

Facilities Services has some plans for the immediate future. They're working on an upgrade to the Clapp Building. The current Clapp Building elevator is currently freight-only, as it's built with outdated technology that's no longer safe for passengers, Trumbley said.

The only Clapp bathroom isn't accessible without an elevator. The plan is to update the Clapp Building elevator and install a single-stall ADA compliant gender-neutral bathroom on the first floor.

Chaudhry said that a few elevators need modernization, like lifts that use steel accordion doors, for example, in the music building. The Fine Arts and Health Sciences buildings elevators are also out of date. The Mansfield Library is also on the list, as its parts are no longer manufactured. Facility Services currently has to send those elevator parts to be refurbished.

The ADA team is working on improving digital accessibility. For example, they're currently working with contractors to make vending machines accessible for those with low vision, following a barrier report made through its website. The team is also working to make sure any information on digital signs is made accessible.

"Nothing is going to be completely accessible," Duran said, a sentiment echoed by Jessica Beers. In a world built mostly by and for the able-bodied person, true equal access may be an unattainable goal.

The elevator in the Eck Hall basement is still finicky. On Oct. 24, it took Proebstel a few tries to get out of it.

Tibbs said she sometimes doubts if she made the right choice coming to UM. She thinks so, but sometimes doubts the University and herself. But she's grateful to the housing staff and ODE that have helped secure accommodations for her.

Proebstel said she feels that UM has tried to keep the promises they made before she came to campus, such as accessible housing and not capping her credits.

Tibbs has made sure she'll be notified about future fire drills. But she still fears not making it out of an emergency situation, and has had to reckon with that possibility.

"All we are guaranteed is birth, memories and death," Tibbs said.

"And taxes," Proebstel added.

A single elevator update can cost

\$1 million

or more

‘The Call of the Wild’ brings the wild to the audience

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Ten actors dressed in neutral colors, tall boots and masks that made their faces look like dogs stood scattered across the stage inside the Masquer Theatre. They wore no microphones. No recorded sounds or music played, but their words filled the space as they talked, cried and even howled.

These actors are part of the University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance’s new play “The Call of the Wild.” The play is based on the adventure novel by Jack London, which tells the story of the dog, Buck, who is abducted from his home in California and taken to Yukon, Canada, where he eventually becomes a sled dog. In 2017, Ian Frank adapted the story into a play, which makes it a “baby play in the theater world,” according to the Director, Michael Beverley.

The 10 actors play multiple parts, except for Elise Clayton, who plays Buck. Others play as many as four parts, including narrators, humans and other dogs that Buck gets to know along his journey.

“We as narrators inhabit these living, breathing characters through the masks we wear,” said actor Austin Mowat. “I guess I just love making up and inhabiting these larger than life characters.”

Mowat, 23, is a theatre major with a concentration in acting. Originally from Victor, Montana, this show is a part of his final semester at UM before graduating in December. One of Mowat’s characters is John Thornton, one of the few human characters in the play.

For many involved, this was their first show since the COVID-19 pandemic began. For Beverley, this was the first production he directed since 2020. He was assigned to direct this play by a selection committee of faculty and students. Directing “The Call of the Wild” is a part of his program to receive a Masters of Fine Arts in theatre with an emphasis in directing.

Beverley, 28, never read “The Call of the Wild” while growing up in Denton, Maryland, so he wasn’t sure what to expect when he got the assignment.

“The first thing that drew me into the script was that it starts with the ensemble saying to the audience that we’re telling you a story,” Beverley said. “It’s a play that’s aware it’s a play.”

He saw the story as an opportunity to bring back what so many missed during the

pandemic: a connection between actors and audience. One thing the design team focused on was creating a set that fostered connection.

“I want to make it really clear that the audience is sitting inside the show,” Beverley said.

Scenic Designer Ashley Milleson had the idea of extending the set into the risers where the audience sits. There is a small portion of the set in all four sections of seating. These sections hold props and, have stands to create “shrines” for the dog masks.

“The Call of the Wild” has scenes throughout where the dogs pull a sled. To portray that, the actors are connected in a circle, and move to show the rhythm in which they are working together.

When imagining the show, Beverley said he didn’t want anybody pulling the sled around.

“From day one, I said, we are not going to crawl on our hands and knees and bark like a dog,” he said.

Creating the sledding movements took about six hours. These movements had elements of dance in them. Beverley, with no dance experience, was happy to have actor Natalie Renk help brainstorm movements that felt natural to the story. Renk, 19, is a sophomore from Helena, majoring in theatre education and English teaching.

“One of the biggest challenges was figuring out how to physicalize the dogs so they read as dogs,” Renk said. “I did this by approaching my character as a human, and then layering on dog mannerisms that fit into the character that I built.”

Sound is another element that took hours to create. Beverley wanted real, non-recorded sounds to fill the space and make the audience feel more immersed in the story. To create the illusion of a train in one scene, the actors had to study old steam engine videos to break down the different sounds. Creating this sound, which only happens for a few minutes, took hours of collaboration.

While the play was chosen by a committee in the fall of 2021, the cast only had four weeks to rehearse before opening



Karlee Palagi, left, removes the mask of Monroe Ayers on Nov. 9. Most of the set was built with reused materials to keep sustainability in mind. LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

night on Nov. 10. This amount of time is shorter than the rehearsal time for most musicals. The cast had to rehearse in the Schreiber Gym, which was half the space of the theater.

“I’ve never felt closer to a cast than I have with the amazing people I have the pleasure of telling this story with,” said 19-year-old actor David Miller, a sophomore acting major from Great Falls.

“We all rely heavily on each other to create the most magical and meaningful experience we can for the audience,” Miller said.

“The Call of the Wild” will have its final shows Nov. 17-20. It is located in the Masquer Theatre, inside the PARTV Center on campus. Patrons with a UM Griz Card (students/faculty/staff) or high-school ID can get two tickets for \$5.50 each (plus GrizTix fees).

‘Black Panther: Wakanda Forever’ is a soulful bid goodbye to T’Challa’s legacy

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It’s not Marvel’s strongest creation, but “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” is a new hero to an aimless brand. Ryan Coogler’s directorial return to the Marvel Cinematic Universe proves a worthy successor to his last film “Black Panther” and gives direction to an otherwise directionless mess.

In 2020, the world lost Chadwick Boseman only two years after his Marvel character, T’Challa, received solo film treatment. His unexpected passing put the MCU at a standstill and the newly developing “Black Panther” franchise in jeopardy.

There was a lot of pressure on Coogler to make something respectful yet expansive, and he didn’t disappoint. “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” isn’t without flaws, but it’s a step in the right direction for the MCU.

Coogler made a bold choice to include Boseman’s real life tragedy as the plot’s driving force, but it works. After the sudden death of

Wakanda’s King T’Challa, his mother Queen Ramonda (Angela Bassett) takes the throne and his little sister Shuri (Letitia Wright) buries herself in technological advancement to cope.

Shuri tries to synthetically recreate the heart-shaped herb that was destroyed in the last film while the world around them schemes to get Wakanda’s precious vibranium. This is the most politically charged Marvel movie to date, as if Marvel president Kevin Feige watched all Zack Snyder’s DC films and took notes.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology student Riri (Dominique Thorne) invented a vibranium detector that the CIA uses to track a vibranium deposit in the underwater kingdom of Talokan. Talokan is after Riri because she led the government to their treasure, the government wants her tech and Wakanda tries to protect her. The film’s antagonist is Talokan’s leader Namor (Tenoch Huerta) who’s basically Marvel’s evil Aquaman: half-human/half-water person hybrid who commands the water people with a giant pointy stick.

Namor is as silly as he sounds. Despite his lengthy backstory, his motives aren’t properly built and it’s hard to take him seriously. His character is less a fault of Coogler’s movie and more a fault of Marvel comics, so maybe Namor was just a poor villain choice.

Like all recent MCU products, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” introduces random, unnecessary characters. It also follows this year’s weird MCU trend where they feature a young kid who makes trouble, but has untapped potential, like Gorr’s daughter in “Thor: Love and Thunder” and America Chavez in “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness.”

The coolest part of “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” is either the fictional technology or the badass performances from Danai Gurira and Wright. It’s an empowering movie that even passes the Bechdel Test with flying colors. It’s self-contained enough that you don’t necessarily have to watch every MCU movie as long as you’ve seen the movies with Black Panther.

At 162 minutes, “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” races by. There’s a moment where you lift your IMAX 3D glasses to check your watch expecting to see only an hour has passed, but marveling at the fact it’s been twice that.

Speaking of, it doesn’t need the IMAX 3D it’s playing in, but it’s still visually impressive with improved visual effects from 2018’s “Black Panther.” Similar to that movie, the soundtrack and sound editing are immaculate.

“Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” can’t compete with either Tom Holland Spider-Man sequels, but it’s certainly one of the better MCU movies post “Avengers: Endgame.” It’s better than “Black Widow” and just about every movie is better than “Eternals.” As an added flex, the first trailer for “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever” has to be the best Marvel trailer ever made.

“Avatar: The Way of Water” isn’t the only water-themed blockbuster sequel in 2022 that features blue-colored pregnant women in a fantasy world. Odd trend, but okay.

Defining weird in Al Yankovic’s story

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When the music scene became flooded with cheap pop phenomena, Weird Al Yankovic saved the day with parody songs. Now that the film scene is overrun with cash-grabbing, Oscar-baiting biopics, Yankovic saves the day again with “Weird: The Al Yankovic Story.”

Complete with drug cartel gun battles, psychedelic trips, stylized fight sequences, ridiculous stunts and graphic violence, this is a legendary parody about a legendary parody artist’s legendary parodies. “Weird: The Al Yankovic Story” is Eric Appel’s first feature film, but it’s a chair-shot to the face of the industry’s history hysteria.

Some biopics take realism to an uncomfortable extreme like 2022’s “Blonde,” and there are others that distort history so severely that the classification of “biopic” feels inappropriate,

like 2022’s “Elvis.” As a co-writer for his own biopic, Weird Al re-writes his own origin story to comically epic proportions.

This parable parody begins with Alfred Yankovic’s early life in an anti-accordion household. Similar to Luke Skywalker, Al’s evil, one-handed father only cares about recruiting our hero to work for his suspicious factory. Al’s aspirations are musical, so when a door-to-door accordion salesman shows up to their polka-hating household, Al discovers his calling while his father mercilessly beats the salesman to a pulp.

As a closeted accordion addict, Al perfects his craft behind his father’s back. He attends a polka party one night where he’s peer pressured into trying an accordion. The world discovers just how beautiful his gift is so he goes on to record music in college.

An instant radio sensation, he plays sold out shows and a spontaneous backyard performance for the likes of Elton John, Alice Cooper, Queen’s John Deacon, Tiny

Tim, Pee-wee Herman and a slew of other random celebrities all attending a pool party. Under the guidance of his childhood idol Dr. Demento (Rainn Wilson), Weird Al becomes a multi-platinum recording artist and the most successful musician of all-time.

Daniel Radcliffe plays Al Yankovic’s idealized image of himself: A ripped ladies’ man at the pinnacle of the music industry. Seeing as how Weird Al himself co-wrote this movie, that probably isn’t too far off. Radcliffe gives a hysterically committed performance and upstages even Yankovic himself, who plays a cameo role as the unsupportive record producer.

Beneath all the layers of sarcasm and Hawaiian floral shirts, only a skeleton of truth remains in this biopic. Al’s first songs were in fact recorded in a bathroom and Madonna did allegedly coerce him into parodying “Like a Virgin,” but it’s the absurd fabrications that make this movie one of the year’s funniest films since Robert Eggers’ “The Northman.”

Since it’s unfortunately a Roku streaming exclusive, this is the “laugh yourself silly all alone in your dorm room” type of movie. Practically every joke lands from the long term to the moment killers. There are hilarious running jokes like the claim Michael Jackson’s “Beat It” was a parody of Yankovic’s song “Eat It” despite coming out two years earlier, and side-splitting one-liners like when Dr. Demento merges his name with his role of mentor to claim he’s Daniel Radcliffe’s “dementor.”

This movie could have easily flopped if it were about literally anyone else, but no one is more deserving of a fake biography of ridiculous proportions than Weird Al Yankovic. After hearing a Weird Al parody, it’s difficult to listen to the original songs and take it seriously. After watching “Weird: The Al Yankovic Story,” it’ll be difficult to watch another biopic, period. The story may be total bologna, but Eric Appel’s feature debut makes 2018’s “Bohemian Rhapsody” look even worse.

Great Falls to Phoenix, Camryn Rhodes loved dancing all the way

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A former Griz Spirit Squad member is on the sidelines at a new stadium cheering for the Arizona Cardinals in the National Football League.

Camryn Rhodes, a 23-year-old from Great Falls, Montana, first cheered on the Griz for four years at the University of Montana. She earned her wildlife biology degree at UM and is now working toward a second degree in veterinary technology.

"I think what sets Camryn [Rhodes] apart from others is her calming, confident demeanor, which I think has allowed her to really push herself and excel in athletics and academics," UM Spirit Squad Director Stacey Richards said.

Richards explained how the team is there to prepare individuals for the world of professional cheer and dance.

"It can be extremely intimidating trying out for a professional team, and we want to prepare them physically and mentally for that process," Richards said.

Rhodes had a mentor in going pro from her coach at the time, Amber Laiche, who is a former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader. Laiche was on the Spirit Squad at UM and graduated from the dance program in 2020.

"The UM program definitely taught me how to be accountable and how to be a leader and how to be prepared," Rhodes said. "I think they definitely gave me the skills I needed to be a successful individual in the real world."

Richards did not know Rhodes was interested in going pro until she was about to try out. Rhodes has been dancing since she was 4, but had no intention of trying out for a professional team. After having a coach and teammate that were Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, she thought she'd give it a shot.

Rhodes found out she made the team on her trip back to Montana after tryouts. She was in the Seattle airport when she watched a video that included the girls

who made it. She immediately started crying when she saw her face on the screen, indicating she would be part of the 2022 team.

"When I heard she was going to try out I knew she'd have a great shot," Richards said, "She's extremely talented, has the right mindset, is just an overall wonderful person, and would be a great representative for any professional team."

Rhodes appreciated the tight-knit community in Missoula and the fact that she knew most other student-athletes and people in her classes. She still comes back to visit home and attend Griz games, including the Nov. 12 game against Eastern Washington.

"I think the community in Missoula, and at UM specifically, is unmatched," Rhodes said.

Now in Phoenix, the atmosphere she works in is a lot different. It is Rhodes' rookie season with the Arizona Cardinals, but she already loves the experience she's had and the people she's met. There are girls from all different occupations and backgrounds on the team, and Rhodes appreciated the connections she can make with them.

She says the main difference between the Cardinals and the Grizzlies is the stage that the dancers perform on. Washington-Grizzly Stadium holds 25,000 people, while State Farm Stadium holds 63,000, and the games are nationally televised. Another big difference for her is the fact that the cheerleaders for the Cardinals are an important part of the gameday experience. They cheer on the team, but they also have their own fans, take pictures with them and sign autographs.

"It's just kind of crazy going from a small town to one of the biggest cities in the country and being on this team," Rhodes said.

Recently Rhodes was named the Week Nine Arizona Cheerleader of the Week. The Cardinals' next game is Monday Night Football against the San Francisco 49ers on Nov. 21 at 6:15 p.m.



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Moreno magic: Missoula standout leading Griz to best season in two decades

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Montana volleyball's 2022 regular season success is more than two decades in the making, and behind the wins is one Missoula local who has played volleyball nearly her whole life.

Sarina Moreno is a redshirt senior libero for Montana and the second-oldest player on the roster. As a Missoula native, she has known Griz volleyball since she started her volleyball career.

"In high school, I'd always come to their games and watch (UM) play," Moreno said. "So it was really fun to be able to put on the jersey and play for them as well."

Moreno started with Montana Volleyball Academy camps at 10 years old, finding a love for volleyball early and transferring her skills into high school.

At Sentinel High School, Moreno became a standout almost immediately as she helped lead the Spartans to back-to-back Class AA state championships alongside former Griz and Sentinel teammate Elsa Godwin.

This team's success, along with Moreno's strong showing through four years of libero at Sentinel, got her a chance to play under the direction of a familiar face: her former club volleyball coach Allison Lawrence.

Lawrence has watched Moreno grow as a player and has also watched Moreno's love of the sport deepen. Even as Lawrence talked about Moreno after the team's Thursday practice last week, the impending exit made the head coach emotional.

"She means a lot to the program," Lawrence said. "And when I moved to Missoula, she was young. She's just starting her volleyball career as a really young person, I think as a 9-year-old. And so I think I got to know Missoula and I feel like my process of calling Missoula home involved watching her."

Lawrence coached Moreno during her time in club volleyball before becoming her head coach in college in 2018.

Moreno's first season as a Grizzly was more than impressive. She logged the most digs by a freshman in school history with 429, while gaining the third-most service aces on the team. Unfortunately, the team



Redshirt senior libero Sarina Moreno digs up attack from the Bobcat offense on Nov. 11. The senior night match ended in victory for the Griz, winning 3-1. **ASTON KINSELLA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

would only go 10-21.

Montana volleyball hasn't had a positive win record since 2013. Moreno was in middle school at the time. Now, for the first time since she was 13, the standout libero is leading the charge among a group of vetted talent and strong young players.

"I think sometimes you forget about it, but I'm just always trying to stay positive and be a positive impact on the court and off the court as well," Moreno said.

While the Missoula native has seen success on both high school and college levels, she is still searching for a Big Sky Conference title, something that has eluded the Grizzlies since 1991.

With the team's best start since 1999, Moreno will have a chance to realize a goal three decades in the making.

However, it won't be at home. Moreno finished her home career with the Grizzlies on Friday against in-state rival Montana State. But when asked what her final home game would feel like, she reeled back.

"It's exciting, but I feel like I'm mostly sad," Moreno said when talking about her final home match. "I don't know how to explain it. I'm obviously excited and it's cool

that it's against the Cats. It's like the biggest rivalry ever. So that's really fun. But, it's also just a really sad feeling. And it's kind of starting to hit now."

With senior day over, she has a two-game test on the road. These next two games could put the Grizzlies into the top four in Big Sky standings.

For Lawrence and Moreno, this journey of volleyball excellence is only two games away from concluding. But the story still goes on, at least for another former Sentinel standout.

Sierra Dennison was a freshman in high school when Moreno was a senior. She saw the success of Sentinel volleyball and followed that instinct to Dahlberg Arena, where the now redshirt freshman is learning to continue the dominance of Missoula volleyball.

"When I was starting to be recruited here, that was a big thing, having kids from Montana on this team and representing Montana," Dennison said. "And then now being here, I think it's something that a lot of people from Missoula really connect to."

Dennison will be the only one Sentinel player next year, something Lawrence

hasn't experienced during her time as head coach. This transition will be not only a hit for UM volleyball, but for Lawrence as she watches one of Missoula's finest enter a new era of life without volleyball.

"It's hard imagining the program without (the seniors)," Lawrence said. "That happens every year. And I think it's a mixture of pride and grief because it's a loss. But it's also such a gain for the world that they're headed out to."

But this era is ending on a high note as Montana welcomed the in-state rival Bobcats for UM's home finale.

The Bobcats have held the Griz in check for nine years, not allowing a regular-season sweep. Nine years ago, Moreno saw a Montana volleyball squad with a winning record and a team that had beaten Montana State twice in one season.

With a chance at history, Moreno made magic. After three close sets where the Grizzlies lost out on a chance to sweep the Bobcats in three, the final set was dominant. The crowd in Dahlberg was electric as they cheered in droves to the sound of kill after kill taking a hit to the opposing side of the court.

For Moreno, seeing the 24-15 score in the final set of her home career solidified her chance at something remarkable. Griz senior Alicia Wallingford made the final kill of Friday's matchup, dropping it just past the net to sweep the Bobcats in the regular season.

Moreno erupted. Hugs from her teammates and cheers from a packed Dahlberg crowd only added to a momentous win in a stellar volleyball season and a win to cap off one of Missoula's premiere volleyball careers.

"I knew I was gonna get the opportunity again," Moreno said when talking about taking her fifth year. "But this is my final go around. I'm not gonna have an opportunity to play here ever again. So I think just not taking it for granted and playing for those around me and myself."

The Grizzlies will take on Idaho State on Nov. 17 before a regular-season finale in Ogden, Utah, against Weber State. UM has a 16-10 record and playoffs will start Nov. 23 at Weber State. Griz volleyball is currently in fifth place in Big Sky standings.

Griz Volleyball Sweeps Cats

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PHOTOS BY ASTON KINSELLA

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The Montana Grizzlies kept the Main Line Trophy in Missoula on Friday, with a four-set victory over Montana State University. The Grizzlies swept the Bobcats this season for the first time in nine years and set a school attendance record in Dahlberg Arena at the University of Montana.

"We had a bunch of gamers out there who kind of balled out," Head Volleyball Coach Allison Lawrence said.

Since this was the last regular season match in Dahlberg, seniors Sarina Moreno, Alicia Wallingford and Elise Jolly were recognized with a ceremony before the first set.

The first set started with a battle, but was shut down by a run from UM that gave the team momentum to win the second. The Bobcats fought back and took set three to avoid the sweep. Montana dominated the fourth set and ended it with a fitting kill from Wallingford.

"I can't really think of a better way to have a senior night," Wallingford said. "It was just picture perfect."

The Grizzlies won both matches against the Bobcats, 3-1 this season, which puts UM just above MSU in the Big Sky Conference standings, in fifth and sixth, respectively.

Both teams will compete in the Big Sky Conference tournament on Nov. 23 in Ogden, Utah.

RIGHT: From left: Alicia Wallingford, Sarina Moreno and Elise Jolly are honored for their senior night before they face off against the Bobcats. The game on Nov. 11 is the last time they play in Dahlberg Arena. **BELOW:** Griz student section focuses in as Bobcats go up for the serve. The game broke the school record for most fans in attendance.



TOP: Middle blocker Sierra Dennison is lifted into the air in celebration for yet another Griz side out Nov. 11.

ABOVE: Sophomore outside hitter Paige Clark goes for the kill, putting the ball past the Bobcat defense.