

THE MONTANA KAIMIN

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Missoula, Mont.

Vol 127, No. 27



FILM AND DIGITAL cameras available for sale are displayed in a glass cabinet at Dark Room of Missoula on April 10. (Montana Kaimin photo by Marley Barboeisel)

Back in time

Once a thing of the past, retro culture is on the rise.

By THE PHOTO TEAM

Montana Kaimin Photographers

It's an average Thursday in a downtown Missoula basement. The 72-year-old owner of the Dark Room, Michael Patterson, catches up on office work while simultaneously scarfing down the lunch he brought from home. Patterson, who has owned the photography supply and film development store since 2006 and worked here since 1995, said his store has become increasingly busier in recent years thanks to a rise in the popularity of film photography.

"We're probably doing three or four times what we were five years ago," Patterson said.

The Dark Room is currently the only business offering film development in the Missoula area. Due to challenges with chemicals, the Dark Room only develops black-and-white film in-house and sends customers' color rolls away to be developed.

Interest in retro hobbies and technology has been on the rise since the COVID-19 pandemic. Using data from Google Search Trends last year, a 2024 study found a significant increase in users looking to purchase old digital cameras, flip phones and older handheld gaming consoles. But it isn't just music and games people are looking for. New vintage stores in town offer not only clothes, but VHS tapes and pop culture memorabilia. Music stores like Slant Street Records and Ear Candy boast racks of cassette tapes.

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'BookTok' = better readers p. 14

NIL settlement p. 16



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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DETECTIVE SQUIRREL: SE 2 EP 14



I CAN'T BELIEVE I LET ALL THIS HAPPEN RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE. I FAILED THIS CAMPUS, AND NOW EVERYONE IS IN DANGER.



THE PIGEONS HAVE DUPED THIER WAY INSIDE THIS CAMPUS AND SEEK TO GUT ITS' BEAUTY FROM THE INSIDE OUT IN ORDER TO FEED THEIR OWN GREEDY AMBITIONS OF CONTROL.



MY COMRADE HAS LEFT ME TO ROT. HE SPEAKS OF LIBERATION FROM THE OPPRESSIVE HUMAN IMPERIALISM THAT HAS BEEN FORCED UPON HIM AND THE OTHER FOREST DWELLERS. HE BUILDS HIS ARMY, AND THEY PREPARE TO STRIKE.



IT SHAMES ME TO SAY, I STILL LACK MANY ANSWERS, BUT THIS MUCH IS CLEAR TO ME NOW: A WAR IS COMING TO THIS CAMPUS. **TO BE CONTINUED...**

Analog rewind

For as long as I can remember, I’ve always loved physical media.

Growing up, July was tape month. My family prioritized listening to music from my dad’s collection of cassette tapes for four weeks straight. Whether we were hanging around the garage or doing our annual summer roadtrip to visit family, we’d put on a classic album or a mixtape from a forgotten era. I loved it. It felt so different from the usual playlist selection we could access on one of our iPod Shuffles anytime.

Sure, the tapes made things harder. We had to possess and hold the physical music we wanted to listen to. Sometimes, the tapes broke and left a tangled mess of tape and plastic casing. But there’s a reason people keep returning to old technology.

For my dad, he likes the fact that you don’t need a subscription service or Wi-Fi to operate it. He also enjoys the fact that tapes don’t skip like CDs with scratches. But my family is far from the only ones with appreciation for old technology.

For this week’s feature story, I challenged the photo team at the Montana Kaimin to find someone bringing a new light to a hobby from an older era. For many of us photojournalists, we experiment with film photography for fun when we’re not working. Personally, I like the physical aspect of it all. It reminds me of those younger days listening to tapes with my dad. So, to add another twist to this project, I wanted the photo team to capture these retro stories with our own retro tech by shooting with film.

This project has not come easy. Most importantly, we needed a test to prove if we could even print photos shot on 35mm film.

As a test run in the 26th issue of the Kaimin, we published a photo gallery shot on film of our paper being printed in Helena. Luckily, it worked out. So the photo team hit the streets to find our sources and shoot them on our sparse rolls of film. After over two months of preparation and execution, here it is. We also decided to create the cover and feature of this week’s issue as an ode to former, vintage Kaimin newspapers.

In this week’s feature, you’ll learn about five instances of retro technology making a comeback. The images in the feature were all made on film cameras, developed and scanned before being printed for this photo feature issue of the Montana Kaimin. I hope you enjoy it!

-Marley Barboeisel, multimedia editor

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



New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez stands on a small riser while delivering a speech to around 7,500 people in the Adams Center on April 16. **MARLEY BARBOEISEL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Easy

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

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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.

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

Bernie, AOC take a stand



Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders looks into a packed Adams Center while speaking in Missoula during his "Fight Oligarchy" tour. **MARLEY BARBOEISEL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

In this week's briefs...

MAXWELL JOHNSON

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OVER \$2 BILLION IN HARVARD FUNDING FROZEN AS TRUMP, IVY LEAGUE STANDOFF ESCALATES

Harvard University openly refused to implement a host of President Donald Trump's administration demands earlier this month, resulting in Trump canceling \$2 billion in federal grants to the University.

The federal demands included the removal of all diversity, equity and inclusion programs, screening of international students and the removal of allegedly antisemitic organizations such as the Harvard Palestinian Solidarity Committee. It also called for discipline for those involved in a host of other pro-Palestine events that had occurred on campus.

The demands provided in the April 11 letter sent to Harvard from the federal government were refused in an April 14 letter from the University. Prior to this, on April 12, the New York Times reported the Harvard Faculty Chapter and the American Association of University Professors had sued the federal government and sought a temporary restraining order from funds being cut. The University itself sued on April 21.

In the April 14 letter, the University stated it was devoted to preventing antisemitism and had made extensive efforts to prevent it. However, it elaborated that many of the government's claims were unsupported, and the federal government's demands would interfere with First Amendment rights.

"The University will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights," read the letter, which went on to say, "Harvard will not accept the government's terms."

Later that day, federal officials said \$2.2 billion of the University's grant funding and \$60 million in contracts would be frozen. On Tuesday, Trump broached the idea of removing Harvard's tax-exempt status on social media.

On April 18 the New York Times reported the initial letter and list of demands sent to Harvard had been unauthorized and sent with varying accounts of how it was mishandled. White House senior policy strategist May Mailman told the New York Times the administration still stands by the letter and the University should have reached out to clarify its authenticity. In response, Harvard stated the letter was sent on an official letterhead by a senior White House official on the same date as one was expected and that the government's actual demands remain unclear.

On April 20, the Wall Street Journal

reported that the Trump administration planned to pull an additional \$1 billion in funding related to health research.

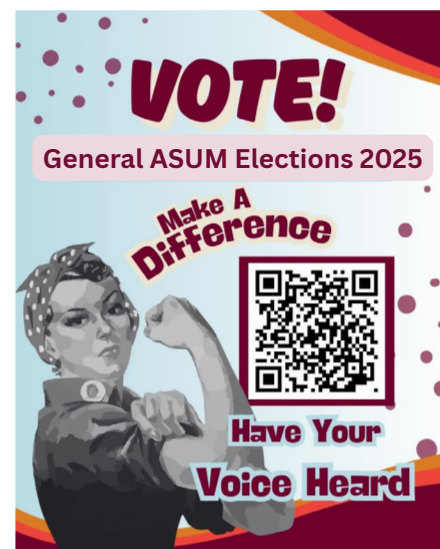
The standoff is part of a broader fight between public universities and Trump, who considers universities places to promote leftist ideology. Prior to the Harvard standoff, the Trump administration froze \$1.8 billion in total funding for Northwestern and Cornell universities. The freeze was related to diversity programs considered discriminatory, despite neither university launching any formal protest to government demands.

Locally, an investigation was launched against Montana State related to the University's connection with a nonprofit intended to increase diversity, which was similarly considered discriminatory. Both MSU and the University of Montana recently have had several international student visas revoked.

Columbia University, under threat of federal funding cuts related to pro-Palestinian protests, eventually agreed to a set of federal demands not dissimilar from those given to Harvard. Several international students who led pro-Palestine protests were subsequently detained, with some, such as Mahmoud Khalil, at risk of being deported, as reported by the Associated Press.

The same day as Harvard's April 14 response, the New York Times reported a group of nine universities, including Ivy League schools Cornell, Princeton and Brown, sued the Department of Energy after a \$405 million cut in DOE indirect cost funding. Much of the indirect cost went toward university research in the field and the lawsuit stated the cuts were unlawful and violated the Administrative Procedure Act.

The Kaimin will continue to cover federal changes affecting the University.



The grandfather of Griz softball



William "Spike" Potter scribbles down the game score on a small piece of paper in between innings for his own recordkeeping.

MARLEY BARBOEISEL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Griz softball's most generous donor is 75-year-old William "Spike" Potter.

Since Potter has been involved with UM softball in 2020, he has continued to build a relationship with the team and its coaches. Potter has started a number of traditions with the team over the years.

He brought a cake to senior night and uses a disposable camera to take photos of the team. He also picks up practice balls at every practice he goes to.

"On every single doubleheader he brings his cupcakes. At the beginning of the year he sends our game schedule to Albertsons so that way he doesn't have to call every single week. They already have them ready to go and he picks them up and drops them off to us in the parking lot before the game," 22-year-old Hannah Jablonski said.



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

POLICE BLOTTER

ABBY WILLIAMS

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Is finals week coming up or something? Business majors must be absolutely locked in getting their coloring books done. By the way, since there seems to be so many good, upstanding citizens about, what if someone actually performed a citizen's arrest on one of the people in these crimes? Those are real, right?

APRIL 7 - BRING BACK MEDIA LITERACY

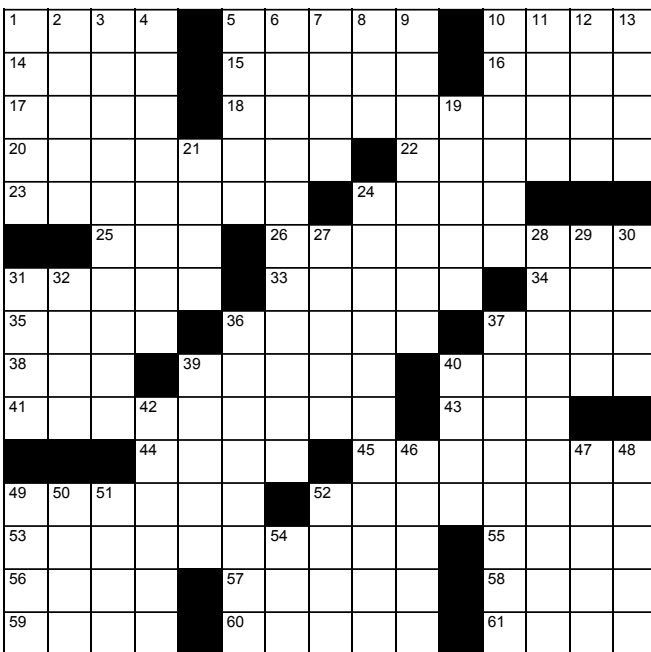
There was an online theft by deception, with no pending leads. What have I been saying this whole time? We need a media literacy class as a gen-ed requirement, because there is no way that we are still falling for the same old phishing schemes in 2025. There are no active leads on this case that came via delayed report. Sincerely, though, let's think things through before we give money to supposed Nigerian princes.

APRIL 11 - MISCHIEF CRIMINAL STYLE

There was an undetermined criminal mischief case at Sisson Apartments at 6:20 p.m. How are we supposed to take this seriously with a name like this? Criminal "mischief" just makes me picture an evil court jester looting the dorms. Once you figure out what was stolen, I hope you get it back. To stop this from happening again, follow what my mom always told me: "Everything has to have a home, or it goes to a new one." That way, when something goes missing, you're assured that it has a new loving family!

APRIL 14 - HIT-AND-DUMB

It seems like Lot T had a bit of excitement, because someone left the scene of a crash without leaving a note. Or, in other words, a proper smash and dash! There are currently no active leads, so let's check all cars for chipped paint and a driver with a guilty conscience. Someone should help the police out and start a fundraiser for cameras in the parking lots.



ACROSS

- 1 Giant bugs in "Them!"
- 5 Tiny pests
- 10 Riyadh resident
- 14 Pixar fish
- 15 R2-D2, e.g.
- 16 Jewelry chain founder
- 17 Type of shark
- 18 Lists one by one
- 20 Blameless
- 22 Nurses take these
- 23 Custom-made
- 24 Numbskull
- 25 Many a cable co.
- 26 Test subject
- 31 Dislikes intensely
- 33 Photographer Leibovitz
- 34 Excitement
- 35 Budget rival
- 36 Tour of duty
- 37 Dirt clump
- 38 Man of the cloth, slangily
- 39 Hotel upgrade
- 40 Black-tie events
- 41 Boating item (with "life")
- 43 Poetic sphere
- 44 Arborist's concern
- 45 Uttar ____ (home to the Taj Mahal)
- 49 Vail trail
- 52 Legitimate target
- 53 Fixed limits
- 55 Kind of code
- 56 Jet black
- 57 Sudden burst
- 58 Butcher's stock

- 59 Sad ending?
- 60 Nymph chaser
- 61 Goofs up

DOWN

- 1 Go off script
- 2 "... said ____ ever"
- 3 Type of verb
- 4 Brief reviews
- 5 Athens native
- 6 Positive, as numbers
- 7 Be up against
- 8 Holland or Hardy
- 9 "Hurry up!"
- 10 Spring bloomer
- 11 Charlie Brown expletive
- 12 Toward shelter
- 13 First lady before Mamie
- 19 Calcutta coin
- 21 Heat in "The Heat"
- 24 Social event
- 27 Join together
- 28 Lifter at a funeral
- 29 Matinee hero
- 30 Mount Olympus dwellers
- 31 Angelic strings
- 32 Say it's so
- 36 Certainty
- 37 Old maid, e.g.
- 39 Truth ____
- 40 Male swine
- 42 Pound critters, usually
- 46 Stair part
- 47 Bad-mouth
- 48 Qualifying races
- 49 Quick trip
- 50 "Citizen ____"
- 51 Exasperates
- 52 Achievement
- 54 FL airport letters

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Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

You're a book — why are you getting banned?

CLAIRE BERNARD

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You must be threatening national security or the sexuality of young children, because you are a bad little book who just got banned. So what is it about you that did it? Was it your salacious details criticizing America's treatment of minorities or your nerve to include a queer character? Do something we can no longer do, and read ahead to find out.

TAURUS: (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

You're "All Boys Aren't Blue" by George M. Johnson, a personal and intimate memoir about the life of a nonbinary Black individual. Unfortunately, "nonbinary" and "Black" just made the White House's list of banned words, so there's no way you'll be making it back into public schools anytime soon. Never fear, you're still available as an audiobook through UM's library.

GEMINI: (MAY 21-JUNE 20): As a Gemini, it's only fitting that you were banned for a story about twins. "Identical" by Ellen Hopkins was banned 74 times in 2024 for its dark themes of drug addiction, self harm and sexual abuse. Although you are difficult to read, you force readers to look at the underbelly of society. Not everyone could take the intensity, though, so they shoved you to the back of the shelf.

CANCER: (JUNE 21-JULY 22): You're so classic, you were taken off the market back in the '80s. But seriously, Cancer, as "1984" — one of the most iconic novels written about the danger of totalitarianism and nationalism — your lessons still ring true today. You hate to be the bitch that says "I told you so," but everyone knows the only reason you were removed is because you're always right.

LEO: (JULY 23-AUG. 22): As a wannabe manic pixie dream girl, Leo, you're "Looking for Alaska" by John Green. It's OK, we all read one John Green book when we were 13 and made it our personality, but did you have to pick one that's so damn depressing? I know you got banned for having discussions of suicide, but your real crime was making smoking and cheating on your boyfriend seem cool.

VIRGO: (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): Virgo, as a perfectionist it's no surprise you are "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini, a beautiful, heart-wrenching tale of redemption based in Kabul, Afghanistan. You will go down in history, not just for being banned 73 times in 2024, but because you are simply a brilliant read. Besides, even if readers can't get their hands on you anymore, there's always Hosseini's equally incredible, if not better, novel "A Thousand Splendid Suns."

LIBRA: (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): As "The Handmaid's Tale," you tell the story of a society where the government has control over women's fertility ... sound familiar? No, Libra, you aren't a news article, you're a book

written in 1985 by Margaret Atwood while she was living in West Berlin. Sure, you're filled with warning signs so obvious characters literally wear red dresses, but no one is listening. They're too busy burning you in the backyard.

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

Hey Scorp, you just keep being in style, even after convincing yourself you're anything but mainstream. As "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," you were a hit when you came out in the '90s and blew up even harder when you came out as a movie in 2012. Despite that, you keep thinking you are some great indie secret like you weren't popular enough to get nixed from publishing. Hopefully banning you won't feed into your god complex when you become literal "underground" literature.

SAGITTARIUS: (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): That's right Sag, they say you got banned for "potty humor," but don't worry, people hated Michelangelo at first too. Taken off some shelves in 2013, "Captain Underpants" tells the tale of a school principal who transforms into a superhero after getting hypnotized by two of his students. I think we all know the real reason why teachers wanted to get rid of it: so their fifth graders didn't get any ideas.

CAPRICORN: (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): Oh Capricorn, you're "Of Mice and Men," the one book from everyone's childhood fever dream. We all read this classic novella from John Steinbeck and were all collectively horrified by the ending. There's truly nothing like being exposed to homicide at the ripe age of 9 years old.

AQUARIUS: (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): As "The Hunger Games," you serve main character energy with a fierce French braid. According to those who got rid of you, you're anti-family, filled with occult themes and unethical. Sure, there are elements of the book that are unethical. It's about children killing each other, dumbass, that's the point. But cultish? Well ... on second thought, I have seen some of your fanpages.

PISCES: (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): Pisces, you imaginative bitch, of course you are "A Court of Thorns and Roses" by Sarah J. Maas. A fantasy series about a woman who finds herself in a world of sexy bat-winged "faeries," you got pulled off the shelves because you are seriously way too horny. I'm all for freedom of speech, but maybe market books that are part-time erotica and full-time bad writing to just the adults.

ARIES: (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Aries, you're bold, groundbreaking and know how to make a statement. As "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, you tell an unflinching story about an escaped American slave who kills her own daughter to prevent her from being brought into slavery. You're tragic and moving, but important — that's why they want to get rid of you so bad.



BARRETT CLEMENT | MONTANA KAIMIN

56th annual Kyiyo Pow Wow brings thousands to UM

ABBY WILLIAMS

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Drums, infectious energy and singing echoed through the Adams Center as brightly colored, well-crafted regalia illuminated the floor. Nearly a thousand dancers celebrated the opening ceremony of the 56th annual Kyiyo Pow Wow on April 18.

Drum circles lined the arena perimeter while a judge's table watched. Vendors sold shirts, earrings and artwork in the area above.

The celebration, which was free to all, brought together Indigenous groups from across Montana and the surrounding areas for two days of ceremony.

Sodzin Medicine Bull, a grass dancer who traveled from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeast Montana, has been dancing for 19 years, starting when he was a 1-year-old.

"It's a giant family reunion. We create families out of this," Medicine Bull said. "We come to celebrate and just vibe and just have a good time and gather together."

Dana Soderman, a member of the Nez Perce tribe, came from Lapwai, Idaho, and wore a jingle dress in the contemporary style. She said it took roughly 48 hours of work to craft her regalia. She appreciated the social aspects of the event.

"It's been a while since I got to dance with all my family, because all my close relatives are up here," Soderman said.

In the past, the event has had one head man and head woman who serve as host and lead the grand entry line. However, according to event co-treasurer O'shay Birdinground, originally from the Crow Nation in southeastern Montana, there is a different head man and head woman for each session this year.

"We didn't select one for the overall powwow, but we had two for the Friday session, and we are going to have two for the morning session," Birdinground said.

The 2024-2025 Miss Kyiyo royalty was also announced, with Rae Croff as Miss Kyiyo, Juniper Firststrike as Jr Miss Kyiyo, and Kiari Many Hides as Little Miss Kyiyo.

Above the arena floor, Emily Gonzalez has been a vendor at the powwow for two years. From Bozeman, the self-described Apache Mexican makes portraits and animal art.

"I am currently doing a tarot deck, and



A young dancer performs in the first grand entry of the 56th annual Kyiyo Pow Wow at the Adams Center on April 18. HENRY DOELLINGER | MONTANA KAIMIN

indigenizing it so it's historical," Gonzalez said. She has been creating art since birth.

Christiana Goes Ahead Lopez is a vendor with the Montana All Nations Health Center, which offers dental, cultural and behavioral services. She has tabled at Kyiyo for 12 years.

At the start of the Saturday morning powwow, head master of ceremonies Darin Old Coyote (one who has a good drum) honored the Native students of the University of Montana, along with inviting some Native veterans who served in Vietnam and Afghanistan to share their stories.

Afterward, there was a Blackfoot bonnet transfer dance, along with a drum circle ceremony. The man and woman who had received the bonnet at last year's powwow passed it over to this year's recipients. The representatives of the Blackfoot tribe danced to the drums with other nations and categories of regalia based on age.

Just like the night before, the dance

competition began, with the junior Kyiyo royalty starting it off with a fast dance, leading the way for the older ages to come forward later on.

Abby Williams is a news reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at abby1.williams@umontana.edu. For more stories from Williams and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.

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Made by Hadley

An end of the year interview with Bodnar

EMILY MESSER

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The Kaimin interviewed University of Montana President Seth Bodnar regarding UM's future after a semester of seismic governmental shifts that have brought trepidation for many students.

Over the course of the 30-minute phone interview, Bodnar was asked about his most unexpected challenges, diversity, equity and inclusion cuts, Indigenous representation and several other questions posed by students.

Bodnar said the most unexpected challenge he has faced in the three years since the Kaimin last directly interviewed him is a decrease in the number of high school graduates attending college.

"I'm concerned about the consequences of these falling rates of educational attainment for long-term national economic competitiveness," he said. "I'm concerned about this for the well-being of our communities. I'm concerned about this, frankly, for our national security. I have three kids myself and I'm concerned for their future, for our students' future and for the world that we're entering now."

The Kaimin asked about federal and state governments removing diversity, equity and inclusion programs, which has raised concerns for many students.

"Look, our mission has not changed," Bodnar said. "Our mission remains inclusive prosperity, and our goal is to continue to ensure that our campus is one where everyone is not just included, everyone is welcomed and everyone is supported to reach their full potential."

He said the University will continue to acknowledge that every group of students faces different challenges.

Throughout the interview, Bodnar referenced the University's mission and inclusive prosperity seven times.

"We're going to continue to break down barriers for everyone to reach their full potential," Bodnar said. "We don't focus on one particular group or class of students. When we say everyone, we mean everyone."

While there has been a "barrage of federal activity," he said the University will track it and model potential impacts, but remain focused on its ability to "protect and advance our mission and our priorities haven't changed." Bodnar said he is in regular contact with the University's federal delegation and legislature.

Early this semester, Indigenous students rallied at the Missoula courthouse against a number of executive orders that would

impact them. These students also reached out to Bodnar and asked him to address their concerns. Though executive orders challenging tribal sovereignty and self-governance have been rescinded by the Trump administration, the part of an order suspending birthright citizenship for everyone is set to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court on May 15.

On how he is addressing the concerns of Indigenous students, Bodnar said: "We do have the President's Native American Advisory Council, which we created back in 2018 when I arrived at the University of Montana, a group to help me and the rest of our leadership team ensure that we're doing everything we can to support and empower our Native students to succeed at the highest rates possible."

Bodnar said Native American student enrollment has increased 45% since 2018. Bodnar also referenced his meeting with Native students on Feb. 13 in order to understand their concerns and attempt to mitigate them, which the Kaimin reported on.

"That's a continued effort, and that's something we have been focused on. We've seen a lot of good progress, but we know that we have a lot of work to do, and we're going to continue to do that work," he said.

The Kaimin additionally asked students on the Oval for their questions and relayed them to Bodnar.

Reagan Louie, a sophomore in early childhood education, said, "Because of the new dorm being built and taking out a very large parking lot, is there going to be a way to recuperate more parking and add parking back on campus for residents who live on campus?"

Bodnar said the answer is yes. "She may recall that we did add a number of spots this year, and we're always looking to add spots where we can."

He said the decrease in spots was not a large number. As the University finishes the new dorm, which is scheduled to be completed in 2027, according to previous Kaimin reporting, Bodnar said his goal is to have the same or a greater number of spots on campus.

Shay Pederson, who is a junior studying math education, asked, "What the plan of action is when we're accepting more students but there's not enough room to grow?"

"Our goal is not growth for the sake of growth," Bodnar said. "We want to be at a student number that allows us to have a vibrant student experience. It's good when dorms are full and when our dining halls are fully utilized, but it's not good when they're over capacity."

The Kaimin also asked Bodnar about student grievances concerning a lack of communication during recent federal changes.

"We want to adapt to that feedback. We want to communicate to our students on that, and so it's one of the reasons I've been meeting with students and faculty and staff," Bodnar said. "We take that feedback, and if they're not hearing, or they're not hearing in certain ways, we can do a better job of that."

Some limitations Bodnar referenced to his job were people not knowing why he is making certain decisions or the limits of University funding.

"Sometimes you have to make trade-offs and you have to make tough decisions to protect the University or to enable the University to pursue some opportunities that others might not have full context around," he said. "Those are the areas that are hard, because sometimes people want you to do something, or they don't understand some of the limitations."

Emily Messer is a news reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at emily.messer@umontana.edu. For more stories from Messer and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



Per tradition, UM President Seth Bodnar delivers pizza to the student section during the third quarter of a Griz football game against the Portland State Vikings on Nov. 16, 2024. The Grizzlies won the game 28-17.

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Back in time

From classic car restoration to vintage apparel, old tech and hobbies are on the rise across Missoula

•Cont. from p. 1

One online store, Retrospekt, offers a range of vintage technology, from cameras to typewriters to watches.

Patterson said he believes a resurgence of film photography and other retro tech could be related to the pandemic.

“I think a lot of that was COVID related. People were shut out, not working and got into hobbies,” he said.

When it comes to film photography, Patterson thinks it’s the look that makes the difference.

“They like that analog look,” he said. “Film has a look about it that digital doesn’t quite do.”

Film sales are not the only thing coming back, according to Patterson. Interest in his older digital cameras has also skyrocketed. He said people have come in looking for cameras that have been sitting on the shelves, collecting dust for years.

Patterson thinks the fad is



MICHAEL PATTERSON, OWNER of Dark Room of Missoula, eats his lunch behind the counter of the store, located in a downtown basement. Patterson has owned the business since 2006 and has noticed a significant increase in the popularity of film in recent years. (Montana Kaimin photo by Marley Barboeisel)

here to stay.

But retro technology doesn’t just stop at film photography. Across Missoula, locals

and University of Montana students find themselves engaged in a range of hands-on, tactile hobbies, from

classic car restoration to old school boot repairs.

Marley Barboeisel
Montana Kaimin Multimedia Editor



CARL WILLIAMS SANDS a boot sole near the end of his day on April 7. In addition to repairing boots for foresters, Williams also repairs about a shelf-full of other shoes each day.



JAKE RYBLOOM'S BOOTS come from his grandfather, who showed him how to care for the leather.

Old boots, new beginnings

By HENRY DOELLINGER
Montana Kaimin Photographer

The leather was still fresh when Jake Rybloom first tried on the pair of Wesco logging boots in his grandfather's closet.

They fit, and the hardly-used boots followed him to his first job as an arborist for the city of Salem, Oregon, and then on to the University of Montana and Clearwater State Forest.

Now a senior studying forestry, Rybloom has used the 35-year-old pair of work boots so often they've had to be resoled and patched multiple times. These repairs are possible thanks to shops such as Archer's Grizzly Boot Co.

A full resole for smokejumper boots at Archer's costs around \$180, compared to factory repairs by companies such as White's, which can be upward of \$250, according to its website. The shop, which has operated in Missoula since 1982, offers an alternative to the more expensive factory repairs.

Carl Williams, the owner of Archer's, has worked in the shop since high school, taking over the business from his mom's cousins. His well-worn hands have stitched and repaired thousands of shoes, from holes in smokejumper fire boots to pull tab repairs on Blundstones. His worn workbench is covered in boots and tools. The wood shows

years of cuts and stains.

Williams currently runs the store alone. This, he said, is because the level of craftsmanship needed to make money repairing boots usually isn't worth the time in training and lower pay for young people needing work.

"Anybody can do it," Williams said. "It's just a fact of getting proficient enough at it to make money doing it."

He said a big reason the shop is sustainable for him is because of how established it is. In its 43 years of operation, the shop has stayed in the same location, next to Hellgate High School, where Williams went to school.

Hardy work boots are making a comeback, especially in Missoula, Williams said. In addition to the larger forestry and firefighting industries in western Montana, recent years have seen a resurgence of fashion-oriented footwear like Red Wing boots, which offers a vintage-inspired lineup of workwear fashion, according to its website.

The need for workwear-specific repair in Missoula continues to grow alongside these new trends. College students, such as Rybloom, benefit from the service so much that Archer's is a sponsor of the annual For-

esters' Ball and the University of Montana Woodsman Team.

"Buy stuff that lasts, spend a little bit more on something that lasts, repair it, repair it, repair it, and then once it's gone, maybe repurpose it," Rybloom said. "I feel it's just a big part of who I am."

While Archer's Grizzly Boot Co. has a steady stream of customers in Missoula, other similar shops haven't had the same

success. A shop in Helena is currently for sale, according to Williams.

"Of all the places and of all the shops, this one would definitely keep you busy," Williams said.

As Williams keeps outfitting customers for the summer season, Rybloom's boots will go with him after college to a career in urban forestry and will likely see the repair shop again.



CUSTOMERS' BOOTS line the shelves and workbenches of Archer's Grizzly Boot Co. on April 7. Carl Williams usually works on four pairs of work boots each day.

Thanks, I thrifted it

By RACHEL YEAGER
Montana Kaimin Photographer

As companies such as Shein and H&M continue to dominate the commercial fashion scene, secondhand shopping has become increasingly popular.

Research by Capital One discovered one-third of clothing bought in 2024 in the United States was secondhand, with at least 25,000 resale stores popping up. It's become a trendy alternative to fast fashion companies' retail outlets that prioritize rapid production of clothing, often with worker exploitation or to the detriment of the environment.

But for many young people, thrifting is

not just an affordable hobby. It taps into a sense of nostalgia that allows them to express themselves.

Maddie Nugent, a University of Montana architecture student from Seattle, prefers to buy her clothing secondhand, especially vintage pieces. A piece of clothing is generally considered vintage when it reaches 20 years old. Nugent said she's always expressed herself through clothing, inspired by her mother, who was a designer.

"I had always been accustomed to buying new clothes, and never really



MADDIE NUGENT TRIES on a pair of sunglasses that remind her of the TV show "Interview with a Vampire" inside of Betty's Divine.



NUGENT SIFTS THROUGH the clothing racks hoping to find new vintage gems for her closet. After finding a white "babydoll" dress, she pauses to hold it up.

considered recycling as an option," Nugent said. "Then one day, my mom took me to this vintage, really high-end thrift store in Jersey City, and that's where I kind of fell in love with vintage fashion."

One of her favorite thrifted pieces is a prom dress she wore her senior year. Dark purple and only \$60 from the Fremont Vintage Mall in Seattle, Nugent remembers it fondly.

"I felt so confident wearing it, and everyone complimented me on how good it looked. I'll never get rid of it," she said.

Secondhand retail stores have become popular for people searching for mesh tops, hats,

vintage album covers and shoes. An article by the New York Times reported that thrifting was up by 11% in 2023. In Missoula, new stores such as Betty's Divine, Leftover Vintage and Zootown Hype & Vintage provide racks of old-school outfits for shoppers to browse.

The vintage boom also applies to accessories, including the bracelets from Nugent's grandmother that she wears everyday.

"All of my grandma's bracelets are my favorite little accessories," Nugent said. "If I take these off, I'm never gonna put them back on."

But like most things, vintage clothing comes with its downsides, including limited size options in stores.

"If I wanted to buy clothing from the '50s or '60s, it's always too tiny for me," Nugent said. "I always have to find things that are what they would deem extra, extra large in 1950s fashion, but it's just a medium in today's society."

Like her grandmother's bracelets, vintage fashion isn't always something that was thrifted. Sometimes it's items that have been passed down and cherished. Other times, vintage apparel is a tribute to a parent or grandparent reclaiming what those generations disposed of.

Nugent's love for vintage has shaped her identity and confidence.

"It's very much made me branch out into my own. I feel like not a lot of the clothes I wear are 'popular,' but it makes me have my little quirky fashion sense," Nugent said.



INSIDE OF THE "vintage" back room in Betty's Divine is a wall full of old shoes and fun knickknacks to browse through.



MIKE STEINBERG SETS up a new 45 record on the turntable while hosting a live show at Montana Public Radio on April 11. Steinberg is a regular guest on the airwaves at MTPR with his show “The Vinyl Frontier.”



STEINBERG IN THE storage room of Slant Street Records on April 3. Along with owning Slant Street Records and disc jockeying at MTPR, he is also a media arts adjunct professor.

On the record

By NOAH EPPS

Montana Kaimin Photographer

In a world where anyone with a music streaming service can play any song, anywhere, at any time, vinyl records have made a comeback into the mainstream.

For Mike Steinberg, the owner of Slant Street Records and an adjunct professor of media arts at the University of Montana, the resurgence of the vinyl media format revolves around one idea: connection.

“The digital world ain’t all it’s cut out to be,” said Steinberg, who is also a disc jockey.

As the 1990s rolled around, Steinberg watched vinyl records fade into history, only finding relevance with hardcore collectors. But the record industry didn’t stay dead for long. Last year, 46.3 million records were sold in the U.S., up from less than one million in 2006.

For Steinberg, the vinyl industry goes beyond music.

“I do think that the interest in records has everything to do with a need that we have in our society for interaction and something tangible,” he said.

Steinberg grew up working in his dad’s record store in St. Louis, stocking shelves and returning excess records that didn’t get bought.

“I developed this kind of intimacy with records,” Steinberg said. “You’d see the picture of the artist and you’d connect to it, you’d know it, and I associate music with certain times.”

Steinberg clearly remembers when rap music was first gaining popularity. “There’s a time before [rap] and a time after that,” Steinberg said.

Steinberg said he appreciates how owning a record feels like having one’s own piece of an artist’s vision. If kept in good condition, a record can last generations. Steinberg said there’s beauty in a record passed down over the decades.

“Here’s that great record that survived time and parties and children and divorces and whatever else to make its way right here to today,” Steinberg said. “I love that about it.”

Part of why records are making a come-



STEINBERG TALKS with hosts on air at MTPR while he hosts his show for the station’s spring pledge drive on April 11.

back, Steinberg said, is because of brick-and-mortar stores themselves. In an age when you can buy almost anything with the tap of a screen, the notion of curation and interacting with someone that cares about the product can be refreshing.

“To have knowledgeable, passionate individuals lead you to that stuff is really

valuable,” he said.

Post-revival, record stores play the same role they did before they disappeared, but this time for a world that may need them far more.

“It matters even more in a time when we’re feeling really disconnected from each other,” Steinberg said.

Restoring classics

By **DIEGO HERNANDEZ**

Montana Kaimin Photographer

Walking into the Bruno Classics workshop, every detail, pronounced angle and sparkling color in the lineup of restored classic cars jumps out.

These eye-catching cars have an appeal that everyone can appreciate. In a time when vehicles are moving away from fossil fuels to alternative methods such as electric, new generations of enthusiasts flock to classic cars to experience simpler times in the automotive culture.

“They are pieces of history, works of art that never get old,” said Drew Bruno, owner of Bruno Classics, an auto restoration shop in Missoula.

Bruno specializes in restoring mid-’80s and older American cars. He works in his 1,400-square-foot shop on the west side of Missoula, putting together cars he calls “pieces of art” before selling them.

Bruno currently has 15 cars in various stages of completion. One piece, a custom-built 1968 Chevrolet Camaro, is priced at \$72,000 and cost Bruno around \$30,000 to

repair. Another car, an almost complete 1946 Ford F-100, sits in the workshop.

Bruno started his career outside the automotive world. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in communication journalism, propelling him into a career in visual media. After 25 years working for Comcast as the vice president of automotive media, he retired, hoping for a less stressful life. Now, at 54, Bruno spends his days under the hood of classic cars, finding peace in the non-complexity of the old engines.

“For a lot of people, classic cars are tied to memories. That’s what makes these cars so valuable,” Bruno said. Bruno has two daughters, both graduates of the University of Montana, who grew up around his cars. He said childhood memories of family are typically what spark the younger generation’s interest in classic cars.

For 19-year-old UM freshman Kyle Rynd, that’s exactly what led to his passion for cars. “Both my grandparents and parents loved

cars, so I spent most of my time with them growing up, and from there I got addicted to the roar of the engine,” said Rynd, who is majoring in pre-law, microbiology and business management.

But Rynd said keeping the passion going as he got older was the hardest part.

“These classic cars gradually transition into being historical pieces rather than vehicles,” Rynd said. “This historic aspect makes them expensive and therefore hard for young people to stay involved.”

Classic, pre-’80s American cars currently sell for tens of thousands more than their original price. A brand-new Chevrolet Camaro back in 1968 cost \$2,727, or \$25,574 in today’s U.S. dollar value. But some restored cars have been known to sell for over \$400,000.

“I hope to see more younger people getting into these cars, but it will take time,” Bruno said. “The great part about these cars is that they are made to last, so with a little restoration, they can continue to drive forever.”



A 1954 BUICK Century sits on a hydraulic lift awaiting the final modifications to its custom built engine.



DREW BRUNO ADMIRES the inside of his custom rebuilt 1968 Chevrolet Camaro that sits inside of his workshop on Missoula’s west side on April 10.



A FULL LOOK at the front of a 1946 Ford F-100 that awaits its restoration in Bruno’s shop.

Students present senior projects at exhibition

KATE WIDMER

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Upon entering the Gallery of Arts, the space bursts with vivid color and excited chatter during the opening reception for the Bachelor of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition on April 17 — no corner of the narrow rooms were left unattended, with friends, family and art enthusiasts crowding the space to celebrate the completion of 16 students' years of hard work and artistic development.

The large attendance was a surprise, but not unreasonable given that this is the biggest BFA class the program has had since the pandemic. First-time Gallery of Arts director and University of Montana alum Shelby Baldrige said it was a welcome surprise.

"I'm really pleased because it's been kind of a personal goal just to make the gallery a little bit more of an inviting space for [everyone], not just art students," she said. "It makes me happy when it gets full of people."

Some of the mediums featured include painting, screenprinting, ceramic and metal sculpture, collage, textile work and videography, creating a huge range in the texture and size of works displayed. While the students' exhibits aren't thematically tied to one another, when put together, the gallery emphasizes explorations of emotional and political turmoil, surrealism and everyday commercial objects that shape the mundane, and by extension, people's lives.

This year, the BFA thesis students were predominantly women and many of the exhibits featured explorations of girlhood and femininity.

"I really like the diversity and variety of styles," attendee and UM alum Evan Duggan said. "There seems to be a lot of different personalities here."

Figuring out how to arrange such different art styles next to each other was a daunting task, but ultimately the gallery is thoughtfully laid out so that one doesn't immediately notice where the different sections stop and start. Navigating this was a challenge for Baldrige because the space needed to accommodate wall displays, some of which were interactive works or pieces that hung in front of the wall, along with multiple installation works students developed.

Some of these works included Susie Elliott's highly stylized bedroom space, Salome Aydlett's pastel simulated living room and Lily Winderl's sit-down tea party,

complete with useable dishes.

"It was a little bit of a balance with people's visions and hopes and then the reality, and kind of working with the limitations of the space," Baldrige said. "But I think everybody ended up feeling pretty happy, and they sure all brought a lot of work. There was kind of a collective [excitement] ... so it just ended up being really full of art."

The gallery is so packed that the storage closet, which typically houses extra pedestals and temporary walls, was repurposed as a makeshift theater for artist Eporu Tower's projector display. The closet's darkness brought a unique depth to his explorations of spirals, space and repetition, as opposed to the bright lights of the gallery.

"I'm glad we thought of it because it would have been difficult to have him have the space for a projection within the gallery with so many [pieces]," Baldrige said.

The students who presented are also part of Baldrige's class "Senior Thesis/Capstone," which aimed to prepare them for both the show itself and the realities of being a working artist post-graduation. While preparing their exhibitions, students also had to reach out to local publications to create awareness of the event.

Many students also created postcards featuring their artwork and exhibition details for others to take. Stacks of them can be found around the Gallery of Arts.

For presenting students, the event doubled as celebration of their work and as a sort of college prom, with many wearing well-planned formal outfits that complimented their artwork. Some wore suits and dresses with color-coordinated motifs, others emphasized accessories, with personalized glasses and shoes that matched the eclectic nature of their exhibits. Combined with the flood of diverse colors, textures and shapes, the 2025 BFA Thesis Exhibition is unlike anything else the gallery will offer throughout the rest of the year.

The BFA Thesis Exhibition will be available for viewing until May 9. The gallery, located in the west wing of the Social Sciences Building, is free and open to the public from Monday through Friday.

Kate Widmer is a arts reporter for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at kate.widmer@umontana.edu. For more stories from Widmer and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



Artworks by Benton Lehman on display during the student showcase in the Gallery of Arts room in the Social Science Building on April 15. **RACHEL YEAGER | MONTANA KAIMIN**



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The new popularity of BookTok romance

BEE REISWIG

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When one searches “BookTok” on TikTok, a subset of the social media app that focuses on reading, a variety of results pop up.

“Let’s rate the books that I’ve read on the ‘spicy’ BookTok table,” says one TikTok influencer.

“These are the books I would recommend to literally anyone asking,” says another.

“Today we will be talking about BookTok books that I can not be convinced to read,” an influencer adds.

Much of the content is aimed toward a newer trend in the literary world: the rise of romance books, from dark romance to “romantasy,” a cross between the romance and fantasy genres.

According to University of Montana professor Robert Stubblefield, this new genre appears to be encouraging young readers, including at the University of Montana, which may lead to an increased interest in reading as a whole for those involved.

According to Publishers Weekly, six of the top 10 best-selling books of 2024 fell into the romance category. Romance sales grew by nearly 9% in 2024.

“A Court of Thorns and Roses,” the second on the 2024 best-sellers list, follows 19-year-old Feyre Archeron in a fantasy world filled with royalty and faeries. It is the first of an ongoing five-part book series, one that has been labelled “spicy,” or sexually explicit, by BookTok.

“He brought his lips to my ear. ‘I would have been gentle with you, though.’ I shuddered as I closed my eyes. Every inch of my body went taut as his words echoed through me. ‘I would have had you moaning my name throughout it all. And I would have taken a very, very long time, Feyre,’” writes author Sarah J. Maas.

For the first time in three years, there was an overall annual increase in print book purchases, though only by 1%. Fantasy had the greatest genre growth within this increase, up nearly 36%, according to Publishers Weekly.

Stubblefield, director of the creative writing program at the UM, has noticed a shift in popularity toward both fantasy and romantasy throughout the last few years.

“I’m not a pessimist about young people reading. Of course, I’m in a self-selected environment,” Stubblefield said, referring to his chosen field, working with creative writing and English majors. “I just think there have always been distractions. You know,

some of them change, but I think students still deal in language and the more they can immerse themselves in it, the better.”

One of these possible methods attracting more readers is book trailers, videos that promote a novel. Stubblefield watched the trailer for “The Sisters Brothers” by Patrick deWitt in one of his classes. The animated video uses older drawings, moving across the screen with speech bubbles and short sentences about the plot. Old Western music plays in the background as cowboy sketches gallop across the screen.

“I think that anything that gets books and literature out into the general conversation, I’m mostly for,” Stubblefield said. This includes romance books, which can sometimes be associated with pure smut or literary tropes. Despite the fact that Stubblefield isn’t a particular reader of the genre, he recognizes its importance.

“I don’t read a lot of romance, but I read a lot of books that have romance in them,” Stubblefield said. “Anything that promotes reading.”

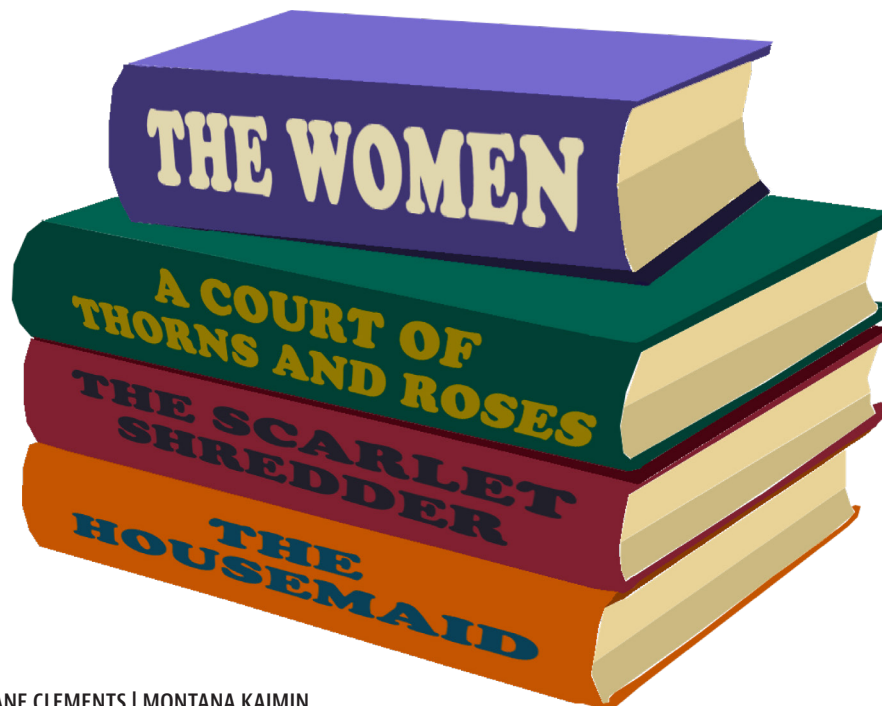
BookTok has seemingly accomplished this, creating a new phenomenon in the publishing world. According to the New York Times article “How TikTok Became a Best-Seller Machine,” the effect of BookTok on publishing numbers was first noticed around 2021. In a trend that had rarely been seen, books that were published years prior began selling in greater and greater numbers.

Titles that experienced this late wave of popularity due to BookTok include: “The Song of Achilles,” “The Cruel Prince,” “A Court of Thorns and Roses” and “It Ends With Us.” The last two of these are romantasy and romance books, respectively. Both made it on multiple 2024 lists of best sellers.

Not everyone has jumped on the BookTok bandwagon, however. Oliva Coll, an 18-year-old wildlife biology freshman, is more of a fantasy, mythical and realism reader. She doesn’t have TikTok, and as such, doesn’t know about BookTok at all. At the moment, she is enjoying “Hillbilly Elegy,” by Vice President J.D. Vance, as she feels it gives her a better view into other lives and cultures.

She isn’t into the romance genre, though her older sister is. For Coll, it’s not really her thing. “I like more of the real-life stuff. But yeah, I think that’s interesting for her, I know she loves it a lot,” she said.

Even those who use BookTok as a tool, such as freshman Meghan Hartz, may not find it to be an end-all for finding recommendations. A music education major from Grand Junction, Colorado, Hartz reads



DANE CLEMENTS | MONTANA KAIMIN

daily. Her favorite genres include dystopia and historical fiction.

“BookTok is amazing, and I get a lot of my book recommendations from there,” Hartz said.

The 19-year-old is also a big fan of the romance genre. “I love romance books, it’s the primary type of book I read and I feel like most genres somehow include a little bit of romance, even if it’s not the primary focus.” She cited “The Hunger Games” series as an example of books that involve romance without the plot revolving around it.

Regardless of one’s position on BookTok,

it has changed the publishing world. Old genres and books are gaining new popularity. Reading levels are on the rise again, though that may not solely be due to the influence of TikTok.

“I think also a lot of genre fiction can be like a gateway drug to bring people into reading,” Stubblefield said.

Bee Reiswig is a copy editor for the Montana Kaimin and can be contacted at bee.reiswig@umconnect.umt.edu For more stories from Reiswig and other reporters, visit online at montanakaimin.com.



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Women's hockey navigates growth, new league

HANNAH BENITEZ
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The University of Montana women's club hockey team hopes to see its new sport rise to its full potential with help from the popularity of the Professional Women's Hockey League and increased interest from women in the sport as a whole.

"We've gotten a lot of support from the sports club union and that's been really helpful with trying to get our own women's [American Collegiate Hockey Association] club," Elle Busch, a freshman from Nevada who is studying wildlife biology, said. Busch is the current president of the team.

Busch is optimistic about the team becoming a part of the association, joining the equivalent league of Griz men's hockey. Joining the association would give the players the same standing as if it was a part of Division III.

Currently, the team is working on getting funding to move up in the ranks, but that comes with a lot of challenges. According to the Griz men's hockey website, a player must pay around \$3,500 to be a member of the team.

While the team might have some setbacks when it comes to getting members, many current members are eager to get on the ice and compete at that level.

"The social factor is really helpful because it allows you to connect with people and create long-lasting friendships," Abby Faulhaberz, a junior studying sociology, said.

It's because of these friendships and bonds that the team feels confident that this is the right move.

"We had a lot of friends that showed up to our games and they made signs to cheer us on," Busch said. "It's just so wholesome. We don't get as much support as the men's team, but we show up at events and set up tables to get people into the sport."

Both Busch and Faulhaberz got into hockey when they were young, before they had their own league of women to look up to.

"I started six years ago. I went to see the Vegas Golden Knights when they joined the [National Hockey League] and I was just hooked and I knew I wanted to play," Busch said.

But while they started their hockey career before their collegiate days, it's not always easy to start afterward.

"It's great to get people into the sport at the club level because most people can't

get into it when it's at the big collegiate level," Busch said.

As the hockey association league states, all players must pass a tryout session. This means the women's team would no longer be able to accept walk-ons or train aspiring players, meaning a lot of new players who joined the team or want to be a part of this group because of the bond the team has created will have to find a place on the sidelines.

But the team has been adamant about still training players, even if it means them having to wait a year before playing.

"We would just say to people who are interested in women's hockey to just show up," Busch said. "We would love to teach people how to skate, shoot the puck and get them into the sport."

The team has seen a rise in interest for the sport at UM ever since the inaugural season of the Professional Women's Hockey League in 2023.

"They're really awesome. I got to see a lot of their players when the USA team was playing and it's just really nice to see how great women can be in this sport," Busch said.

The league has not only helped open doors for athletes, but show everyday hockey viewers that women have a place on the ice. In April 2024, two women's teams, the Montreal Victoire and the Toronto Sceptres, played in front of 21,105 people, setting the highest attendance record in the league and almost selling out the entire arena.

"It's inspiring me to be better, to see how

they play shows me that I too could be at that level," Faulhaberz said.

The team is big on the idea that no matter what skill level someone is at, they have a spot on the team. It's support that drives this team, whether it's from die-hard fans or people who just want to see women celebrated in sports.

"It's beautiful when we celebrate women's sports," Busch said. "It's cool to see way more girls playing hockey and to see the community grow."

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Elle Busch, left, and Abby Faulhaberz, right, stand in front of the grizzly statue on April 16. Busch is the president of the women's hockey team.

HANNAH BENITEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

How the House v. NCAA settlement will affect UM

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A federal district court judge in California is working through the final details of a lawsuit that will financially burden the University of Montana for the next 10 years and change the culture of college athletics indefinitely.

House v. NCAA, often called the House settlement, is a conglomerate of three lawsuits filed by former NCAA athletes. It alleges antitrust violations against the NCAA for its ban of athletes profiting from what are now called name, image and likeness deals.

Part of the suit will benefit athletes who competed in NCAA Division I sports from 2016 to 2024. That pool totals \$2.8 billion and will be paid out to athletes who qualify for the class if they are deemed to have missed out on name, image and likeness deals they could have made, but qualifying criteria is highly specific. It is not expected that any University of Montana alumni will benefit from the settlement.

However, the athletics department at UM will also be on the hook for an estimated \$220,000 to \$240,000 a year for the next 10 years to help pay for the settlement. This won't simply be a check UM is writing, though, it will come as a loss in funds provided to the Griz from the NCAA as a part of school-to-school revenue sharing.

Kent Haslam, director of athletics, said the department hopes to make up for the loss by increasing revenue from concerts, ticket sales and philanthropy.

"We're pretty scrappy when it comes to generating revenue," Haslam said.

But the settlement doesn't just put past grievances to rest, it will also change NCAA rules going forward. One of the biggest shifts is the ability for schools to share revenue with athletes. The advent of revenue sharing will likely send shockwaves into the current name, image and likeness economy, which has sent schools scrambling to find more funds.

During the first year of the settlement, Division I schools will be able to share up to \$20.5 million of their general revenue with athletes. The number is based on a percentage of the top conferences' average revenue. It will increase slowly over a 10 year period.

Schools can either start paying players outside of the settlement immediately or wait until the settlement is finalized in court and they are forced to pay. UM will opt in to start paying athletes in fiscal year

2027.

Haslam didn't have a ballpark estimate for the current total revenue of athletics, but said it certainly wasn't enough to fulfill the full extent available for revenue sharing.

"It's not like we've been sitting on this extra pot of revenue that now, magically, we'll be able to share," Haslam said.

Data made available by the Department of Education through the Equity in Athletics data analysis website showed that in the 2022-23 fiscal year, the total athletics revenue for UM hit just under \$24.9 million, with expenses totalling nearly \$24 million.

"All of the revenue we generate goes to supporting the department and all of our student athletes, so we are going to have to find ways to create more revenue to get into that revenue share area," Haslam said. "We've always been a department that lives off of far more of what it generates than any other school we compete against in this conference."

Waiting to opt in to the settlement will allow athletes and coaches time to plan for the other big part of the settlement: roster caps. The proposed rule change would set caps on the number of players a team could have, but then requires all players receive scholarships. Currently, there is no cap on the number of athletes in any sport, but

there are caps on the number of full scholarships available.

For example, there is currently a scholarship cap of 85 athletes for Division I schools, but teams can split some of those full rides into partial scholarships for players. Under a proposed version of the settlement, football teams would be capped at 105 players, but all would be eligible for full rides.

But other Griz teams, like women's soccer, who operate above the proposed cap, may have to deal with a reduced number of players. Haslam said this is why UM will wait to opt in.

The problem is that changes to the roster cap policy have been bouncing back and forth in the final weeks of court, with one side wanting some athletes who are already over the roster cap to be grandfathered in and allow for teams to be over the roster cap until they graduate.

"That's part of the reason we decided not to opt in immediately was certainly the uncertainty of not really knowing what the settlement looks like," Haslam said.

This uncertainty is a large part of what is being decided in hearings over the last three weeks. Beginning on April 7, athletes testified before a judge on various aspects of the case. The roster cap has been disagreed upon by the plaintiffs (the athlete

class) and the defendant (the NCAA), with Judge Claudia Wilken bringing forward the idea of grandfathering in players.

Griz athletes won't have to worry about the changes this year, but the proposed changes will shake up the already contentious name, image and likeness economy as the new athlete compensation model takes effect.

"Every University has a different collective," Marcus Welnel, director of UM's collective, said. "Some relationships are good, some are bad, so I think universities are really going to like this, where they are going to have a lot more control on how to pay the student athletes."

Along with revenue sharing, the settlement is likely to set in place a "clearing-house" of sorts for athlete deals. Essentially, the model will evaluate name, image and likeness deals to make sure athletes are being paid fair market value.

The process is meant to stop athletes from being given exorbitant amounts of cash or resources in what many call "pay-for-play" deals.

"What has been talked about is creating a fair market analysis of all NIL deals," Welnel said. "These collectives were paying these athletes \$2 million for a couple social media posts and stuff like that, really essentially just paying these athletes."

While Welnel does envision this as a positive for college athletics, he does see conflict potentially arising from limiting athlete compensation.

"I think you're gonna have a lot of litigation and problems being able to limit how much a business is willing to pay and coming in and saying that they're not worth that," Welnel said.

As of April 21, the settlement has not been approved, though many of the changes are already agreed upon. Once it is finally approved, it will likely solidify an entirely new era of college athletics. The last several years have been tumultuous for coaches, athletes and administrators alike, but the finalization of House v. NCAA may bring peace, and a new culture, to the world of collegiate sports.

"It's moving toward a professional model," Haslam said. "There's no doubt about it."



The recent House v. NCAA settlement alleges antitrust violations against the NCAA and could result in a loss of funds for Griz athletics. **HENRY DOELLINGER | MONTANA KAIMIN**

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