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Front cover photo Savannah Stanhope
Inside cover photos contributed Kevin McManigal



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Listen up, ASUM. We want to make a public comment

One of the frequently asked questions on ASUM's website is "How do I have my voice heard?" That's a great question. As students whose job is to cover ASUM, we've seen the confusion students face when they need to lobby for club funding or place a public comment, the ways ASUM claims your voice will be heard.

ASUM's website is clear that public comment occurs at the beginning of the meeting. But it isn't so clear about what public comment actually is.

During lobbying, as many as 200 students advocate for their student group to get more funding, divided up between July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. If you've ever witnessed student lobbying, it's chaos. Some groups perform for the senators, like Circus Club, some send a single representative to read their budget and explain why they need funding, some bring food or candy for the senators. There are no standards or limits, and it leaves some student groups

with a much less memorable lobbying experience.

The representatives who have to go on their own look around uncomfortably, trying to figure out whether they should keep talking while senators sporadically knock on the table in front of them and grill them about anything from group membership to where their club equipment is stored.

The information about public comments can be found, with the help of a little Command+F, on page 11 of the 43-page ASUM Bylaws document. "Public comment for the Constitutional Review Board proceeding shall occur before formal arguments for either side is made," according to the bylaws. "The Constitutional Review Board Chair may place restrictions on public comment and must make public such restrictions within 24 hours of the Board's convening."

Even with a Command+F search, this information still isn't what students need. It isn't even relevant to how to

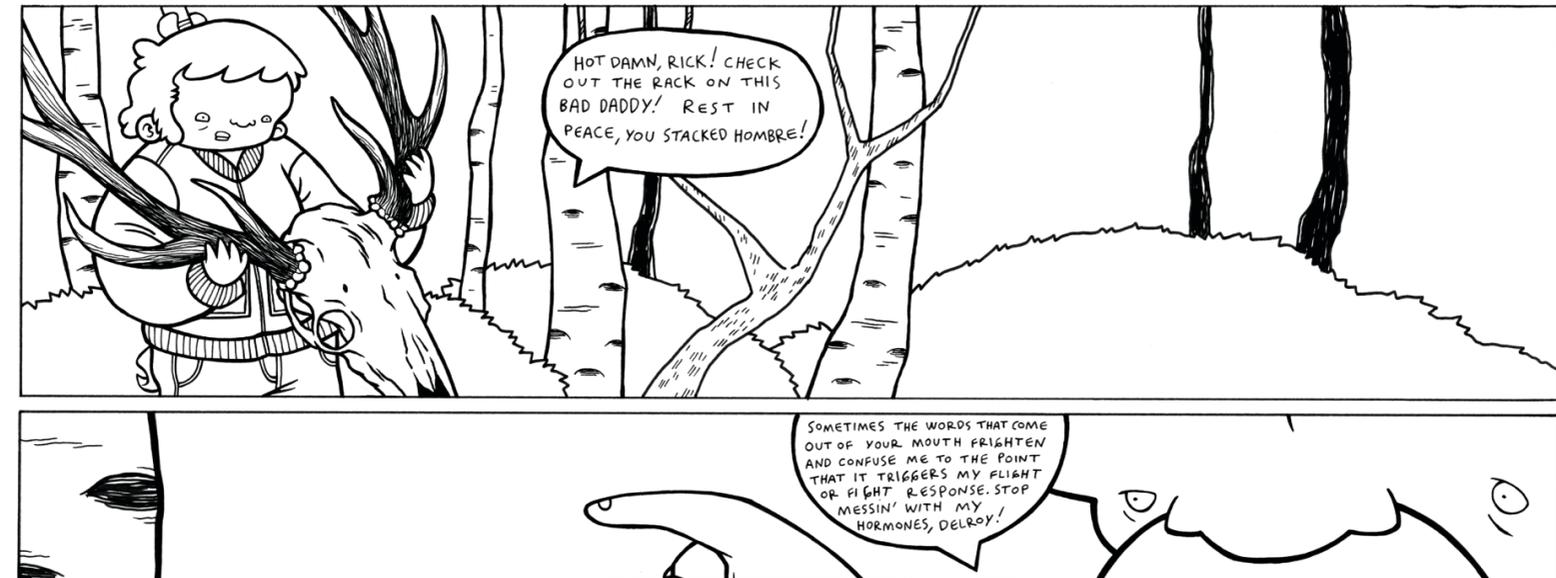
make a public comment, still, because it only references the Constitutional Review Board, not the senate meeting.

It can be frustrating for students who want to make their voices heard without a clear explanation of how to do that, and with the public comment submission page buried on ASUM's website. Most students on campus probably don't know how ASUM works, where its office is, when the meetings are, but most still have to rely on public comment to be heard by their student representatives on campus. ASUM has a responsibility to make public comment understandable.

ASUM needs to refocus its attention on students. Students and their clubs suffer when they can't be heard, or when they go onto the ASUM site to leave their comment and are given no instruction. That's the only way that it can hear student voices, and it seems like they don't even try.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com



COOPER MALIN | MONTANA KAIMIN

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

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

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SYDNEY AKRIDGE

sydney.akridge@umontana.edu

NO INJURIES AFTER UM BUS TOUR CRASH

A charter bus carrying Seth Bodnar, Cathy Cole and a number of other administrators, faculty and students was T-boned by a car in Spokane on Feb. 19. No one on the bus or in the car was injured. The University students and employees were on a bus tour meeting with high school counselors and students. The recruiting trip took them to Billings, Bozeman, Helena, Great Falls and Spokane in February.

MTPR NEWS DIRECTOR

Montana Public Radio named UM alum Corin Cates-Carney the new MTPR News Director. Cates-Carney started at MTPR in 2015 as a Flathead Valley reporter and has served as the interim news director since this fall.

STUDENT GROUP BUDGETS FINALIZED

After student groups presented for two weeks of formal and informal lobbying in front of the ASUM Senate, ASUM finalized student group budgets for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 on Feb. 25. Students presented their groups' purpose, membership and funding priorities.

MISSOULA CLIMATE PLAN REVISED

Climate Ready Missoula, an organization working with the City and County of Missoula to create a climate action plan, revised the Climate Ready Missoula Plan Feb. 21 after public feedback. The plan was first released on Jan. 13 and received public comment online and in person. It includes 29 goals and 67 strategies to address climate change in Missoula. The Missoula City Council will host a public hearing March 3 at 7 p.m. to discuss the new revised plan.



A scammer, a half-naked nuisance and a possible Batman sighting

DANTE FILPULA ANKNEY & ALEX MILLER

dante.filpulaankney@umontana.edu
michael6.miller@umontana.edu

FEB. 14: PAID OFF

A student in Miller Hall answered a call from a number that appeared to be from the University, but was actually a call from an elaborate phishing scam. The crooked caller, claiming to be the UMPD Chief of Police, told the student that a warrant was out for their arrest and demanded \$2,000. The caller graciously accepted \$500 dollars from the student before hanging up. The student reported the call shortly after realizing that they, in fact, had not been on UMPD's list.

FEB. 16: NO SHOES, NO SHIRT, NO YELLING!

A concerned onlooker called UMPD to report a man sitting in the snow with no shoes or shirt, yelling on the corner of Arthur and Beckwith. Officers responded, but were unable to locate the man who surely caught a cold.

FEB. 18: THE TWO THAT GOT AWAY

UMPD received a report of a scratch on the window of a door in Craig Hall which said "JP and Bill were here." UMPD closed the case without identifying any suspects. Our guess is as good as anyone else's, but we think JP and Bill did it.

FEB. 19: A PARTY OF ONE

A man at the Mansfield library was reported to UMPD via phone call for having a private interaction with his nether regions in public. The man engulfed in the virtual realities of the computer screen left on his own accord before UMPD had to interrupt his fun. UMPD Officer Brad Giffin said that this actually happens fairly frequently.

FEB. 21: IS THAT YOU, BRUCE WAYNE?

From the dark depths of the Fine Arts building's main stairwell, a silent caped crusader appeared to follow a student. Fearing that she would be shown the meaning of justice, she called UMPD for aid. Officers arrived, but at that point the mysterious figure had disappeared, presumably back to the Bat Cave. Shortly thereafter, UMPD sent out a bat signal alert for students to be on the lookout for the Bruce Wayne wannabe.

Childlike love: Pam Hoppe, 1959-2019

MAZANA BOERBOOM

mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

She hadn't seen the kids in years, but when they came in the room she lit up with recognition, a smile warming her face.

Pam Hoppe encouraged the little boy and girl to come to her side and hold her hands.

"Lachlan," she said addressing the 9 year old. "I need you to build me heaven out of Legos."

Then she turned to Amelia, a 7-year-old with a competitive streak, and asked her how the Olympic training was coming. Hoppe always swore the kid would grow up to be in the Olympics.

Lachlan and Amelia Lurgio weren't the only kids to visit Hoppe at the hospital during her battle with ovarian cancer. Dozens and dozens of children came to see "Teacher Pam," the woman who dedicated her life to helping them learn and grow. She remembered every one of them.

Hoppe died Dec. 4, 2019, at 60 years old. She spent 23 years teaching at ASUM Childcare. The classroom she once taught in will be renamed to "Pam Hoppe's Preschool: Pam's Happy Place," in her memory.

Hoppe was born on Feb 2, 1959, in Peoria, Illinois. She moved around a bit as a kid, but her family eventually ended up in Montana. Throughout her life, she consistently loved kids and was devoted to her faith as a Christian.

She was a baker at St. Patrick Hospital for several years, but in 1985 she quit to start an in-home day care. From then on, she devoted her life to taking care of children. She worked at another childcare center for a few years and then began working as an assistant teacher at ASUM Childcare in 1996. It wasn't long before she worked her way up to lead teacher.

Throughout her life Hoppe also fostered children. She loved the kids who came into her home like her own and even adopted a couple of them. Her daughter Mary came into Hoppe's life at age 3. She was disabled

and Hoppe cared for her well into her adult years, until Hoppe became sick.

"Children were her life, and she loved being with them, and she was just amazing with the children," said Vicki Olson, director of ASUM Childcare.

Olson met Hoppe while they were both in school studying early childhood development at University of Montana Western. Hoppe went back to school while she was teaching at ASUM and devoted herself to learning about the children she worked with every day.

"She knew early childhood, she knew how to make it fun and there was not a kid that came out of her classroom that was not ready for kindergarten," Olson said.

Maureen Bookwalter sent both her daughters, Willa and Wren, to ASUM Childcare. She said that she trusted Hoppe's opinion as if she were her kid's pediatrician.

Bookwalter said Hoppe taught her kids by example, showing them kindness and patience. She welcomed every kid at the door and told them, "I'm so glad you're here today."

Hoppe also had a special talent for dealing with children who some might call problem kids. She could reason with any child and walk them through any problem with patience.

Bookwalter remembers Hoppe sending a note home with Willa, saying how proud she was of the young child who stood up for a new classmate.

Hoppe also had a knack for pranks. She was quick-witted and childlike in nature. She loved to laugh.

One summer, ASUM Childcare teacher Jennifer Duvall kept finding extra kids' shoes everywhere on the playground. She was befuddled to find that all of the kids in her class already had their shoes on. She never knew what to do with the extra shoes.

Duvall found out at the end of the summer that Hoppe was the one messing with the teachers.

Hoppe did everything with love and



CONTRIBUTED | ASUM CHILDCARE

selflessness, any people who knew her said she was the most saintly person they knew.

"She was always giving to other people and taking care of other people," said Candice Moore, the psychology coordinator at ASUM Childcare. "It was never about Pam, it was always about everyone else."

Moore remembers one day finding a folded piece of paper on her desk with her

son's name on it. When she opened it there was a \$50 bill and an unsigned note that read: "Get Bentley new school shoes."

When Moore thanked her, Hoppe's reply was, "Oh, it wasn't me. It must've been the shoe fairy."

"She just, she was kindness," Moore said. "So I'd like to take some of that with me."



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The six cows that currently sit on the Bandy property stare at the unusual number of people coming to look at them. Weis said he didn't name them because he had enough trouble naming his dog Nickel.
PHOTOS HAZEL CRAMER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Where's the beef? Funding UM farm to table

AIDAN MORTON
aidan.morton@umontana.edu

David Weis is one UM employee who will never take a sick day. He wakes up in the morning, checks his emails and rides his four-wheeler down his snow-covered driveway to tend to UM's cattle herd.

Weis has managed and lived on UM's Bandy Ranch near Ovando, roughly 40 miles northeast of Missoula, since 2003. In May 2019, Weis bought 25 Red and Black Angus heifers from the neighboring ranch and cattle sales in Missoula and Butte, creating what is now UM's herd. Over the course of the academic year, Weis loaded up and drove 20 heifers to Ronan to be slaughtered, processed and then served at the Food Zoo.

Weis said he likes the Red Angus breed

the best. They look cleaner, more colorful on a backdrop of green pasture than their Black Angus cousins. The country landscape isn't as appealing now, of course. The nights dip to 10 below and the days rarely get above freezing at the Bandy Ranch. The snow falls heavy and solid over the hay fields and pastures, too deep to interest wintering elk herds or deer. There aren't many song birds, either. Canada geese are the last to migrate south for the winter and the first to touch down at the Bandy Ranch in the spring. But that won't be for a while.

Weis said spring comes a month late at the Bandy Ranch, but he's got mouths to feed, five to be exact. Weis will look after the remaining five heifers until March, when he's scheduled to make another trip to the processor in Ronan. Weis is a one-man show — managing

the 3,436 acre ranch year-round by himself. But, whether there are five or 500 cows on the ranch, someone has to be there, he said.

"Keeping one person on a small budget is a challenge," he said. "But without someone up here, it's hard to do anything."

This academic year was the first time UM Dining has served Bandy beef, but the ranch has been a working cattle operation since it was deeded to the University.

In his will, Ed Bandy Jr. left the ranch to the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station (MFCES) at UM for agricultural, timberland and rangeland research and management in his will after he died in 1989, according to the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation website.

In 2018, Bandy hosted UM students for a two-week long program in sustainable ranch

management. Wildlife biology professors and students have installed game cameras around the ranch, catching photos of grizzlies, mountain lions and elk. Forestry students have also led restoration efforts along the creeks and forests in Bandy.

MFCES is funded by the Montana Board of Regents' annual budget. It provides funding and leads conservation efforts for students at the agency's two properties: Bandy Ranch and Lubrecht Experimental Forest.

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company gifted Lubrecht to UM in 1937. At 21,000 acres, Lubrecht is much older and much larger than the Bandy Ranch property. There are bunkhouses, classrooms and headquarters to host students at Lubrecht. For students participating in Bandy programs, a table and chairs are set up in the

barn. Christopher Keyes, associate director of MFCES, said it's tough to get students to drive an hour off campus for class, and even trickier to fund the Bandy Ranch.

"We have all the expenses of running a ranch," Keyes said. "But we don't have a whole lot of land to generate the revenue for it."

Bandy came under UM ownership with all the features of a working ranch: a ranch house, shop and lean-to garages for equipment storage. It wasn't designed to host students, let alone provide a place for students to stay. Keyes said there are aspirations to construct a classroom building at Bandy in the future. But without a plan for what the building would cost and where the money would flow from the timeline looks uncertain.

The College of Forestry campaigns for both Lubrecht and the Bandy Ranch on the Campaign Montana website. The ranch's funding campaign tells prospective donors, "Your gift helps us invest in the next herd of cattle, upgrade facilities, hire a program coordinator and provide internship stipends to facilitate student working and learning on the property." But the campaign doesn't give any clear direction for the ranch.

The MSU Extension service and Montana Natural Resources Youth camp challenge students to charter the future of the ranch in a land use game. In the game, the student teams "inherited a 3,800 acre ranch... based upon the University of Montana operated Bandy Ranch." It is up to the teams to "save the ranch for the future of the state known as the 'Last Best Place.'" The winning team is measured by ranch profitability and conservation ethic.

Weis said there was discussion of selling the ranch five years ago when funding at the University was tight, but the idea never came to fruition. Still, he wonders about the future of the ranch. He said that without a good "reading spot" or classroom, the Bandy is just a ranch nine months out of the year.

"There's gotta be something better than this one-man operation and a neighbors' lease to get students up here," Weis said.

UM has granted grazing leases to neighboring ranches to feed and run cattle since it was left to the University. UM and Montana State University students participated in shared ranching courses at Bandy in the early years of the MFCES ownership.

But between the two universities, the cattle budget ran out and the universities sold the herd to the neighboring Two Creek Ranch.

The grazing lease with Two Creek is a major source of income for the Bandy Ranch. It allows the W.A. Franke College of Forestry to host out-of-the-classroom programs for students. In order to run ranching programs for students, the MFCES needed a herd of its own. Weis said the Bandy had to modify its lease with Two Creek to allocate grazing land for the small UM herd.

The Bandy Ranch is set to continue to raise UM cattle. UM Dining plans to buy another 25 to 30 cattle to raise at Bandy this May. Keyes said the University paid between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for the 25 heifers last year.

Currently, all Bandy beef is processed into ground beef for the Food Zoo, but Interim Director of UM Dining Byron Drake said Bandy steaks and roasts could be served at specialty events in the future. Drake loves serving UM beef on campus. He said buying from and serving the University is a sustainable "closed loop" of production and consumption on campus.

As for Weis, there's one remaining cow and calf pair in the 2019 herd. Weis said he will start weaning the calf this spring. But until then, Weis and his dog Nickel parole the empty ranch in Weis' pickup, waiting for his busy life to kick back up when the snow and ice thaw.

Weis likes the winter, but he doesn't like doing nothing. It's all logging and paperwork. A part of him misses the early mornings and scorching afternoons of fixing fences and moving irrigation pipes in the summer. But he will have to wait until his year starts in March, he said.

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TOP: David Weis sits in the shop of the University of Montana-owned Bandy Ranch. Weis is the only person who tends to the 3,436 acre ranch year round.
BOTTOM: Within the shop, tools are stored and kept warm with a wood stove. Weis would spend most of his time cutting firewood to keep the large space heated. "I get students all the time asking about working out here," said Weis.

UM makes strides to empower women, POC

MAZANA BOERBOOM
mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

The University of Montana is taking strides to address women and minority rights this year, 100 years after the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave most women the right to vote.

The University is holding a lecture series, an exhibit, workshops and more to talk about issues surrounding gender equality and supporting women. At the same time, the University Faculty Association (UFA) is launching a gender pay audit.

"I think it's really exciting and encouraging that together we're all sort of taking this step to see if we can make the working conditions on campus more equitable," said University Faculty Association President Megan Stark.

Stark said the pay audit could take years to complete, and right now the University is still deciding how the analysis will be done. She said that it isn't making any assumptions about what the data will show yet.

The last time a pay audit was done was in the 2005-2006 academic year, and before that in the 1994-1995 year. In 2006, women were paid 89.4% of what men were, and in 1995 they were paid 78.5% of what men were.

"Just the very fact of doing it is important because it will raise awareness around the gender pay gap and increase conversations and opportunities to ask questions," Stark said.

Jeff Bookwalter is an associate professor in economics and treasurer for the UFA. He said a pay audit is more complicated than comparing women's and men's salaries side-by-side. It is common for men to be in higher paying fields and to have worked for the University longer, which Bookwalter said may be evidence of discrimination in society, but not necessarily in the University.

Elizabeth Hubble, a professor and director of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, said that the issue of pay equity fascinates her.

"Discussing it makes people really angry sometimes, and they don't want to believe that there are differences in people's salaries or people's wages based on gender and race," Hubble said.

Through some research and studies she's reviewed, Hubble found that people often try to blame the pay gap on women's choices, like having a kid, living in a certain area or pursuing a lower paying career. She said often those choices aren't choices at all, and there are barriers that keep women out of high paying careers, such as lack of mentorship and racial and gendered discrimination.

Even women in fields like science, technology, engineering and mathematics are paid less than men. An Ohio State University study conducted in 2016 found that women with PhDs in science and engineering are paid 31% less than men a year after graduating.

Hubble said she is troubled by people who try to blame this inequality on women or who choose not to believe it exists. She said she had a student send her an article several years ago that said the gender gap didn't exist. The article said that single white women living in urban areas made 97 or 98 cents on the male dollar.

"This group of women in Chicago may be making close to the same amount, but that's not going to hold true for women of color in Chicago. It's not going to hold true in more rural areas," Hubble said.

Montana, for example, ranks 32nd among the 50 states for gender pay equity, according to a 2019 American Association of University Women (AAUW) study. The study showed that women make 78 cents to a man's dollar.

Kelly Webster, the chief of staff for the president's office, helped launch an initiative called S.E.A. Change last



The law library exhibit stands displayed in the back of the Jameson Law Library. The display is set up to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the 19th amendment which gave women the right to vote. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

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UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

"Discussing it makes people really angry sometimes, and they don't want to believe that there are differences in people's salaries or people's wages based on gender and race."

—Elizabeth Hubble, WGSS director

year to support women. The "S" stands for safe, the "E" stands for empowered and the "A" stands for accelerated.

The initiative launched in time for the 19th Amendment Centennial and was created in an attempt to improve how the University practices gender equity. Webster said there is still a lot of work needed to reach equality.

"I think it's really important to stress that the march toward equity is a long one. It requires endurance," Webster said. Webster and Hubble both said that during the upcoming events about the 19th Amendment they want to stress that many people of color weren't given the same rights until years later.

Native Americans were given citizenship in 1924, but it wasn't until over 40 years later that all 50 states followed suit and gave them voting rights. Even after the 15th amendment in 1870 granted all men the right to vote, regardless of race, countless laws and fear tactics were used to keep African Americans and other people of color out of the polls until the 1965 Voting Rights Act enforced those rights.

Even now there are barriers for people of certain identities, like Native Americans and transgender and non-binary people, who struggle with getting proper citizenship and IDs, Hubble said.

The showing of "For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska" on Thursday Feb. 27 will kick off a series of movies that address voting rights. The movie features Native Alaskans who weren't given the right to vote when Alaska became a state in 1959.

Other initiatives will include the Community Lecture Series, with three more lectures on the 19th Amendment in March. A traveling exhibit in the law library, which will be there until March 18, will also be at all of the community lectures. Salary negotiation workshops for all students, faculty and staff will be held March 23 and April 1. The 50th birthday of the Women's Resource Center is scheduled for April 10. The President's Lecture will feature the author of "The Women's Hour" Elaine Weiss on April 25.

"Those of us who work in this field often feel like it falls on the same small handful of people to always be advocating here," Hubble said. "So it's been, from my perspective, it's been somewhat refreshing for there to be numerous or at least more than one initiative around gender equity."

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UM graduate runs for Public Service Commission

JOHN PAUL EDGE

johnpaul.edge@umontana.edu

A candidate for the Missoula Public Service Commission is campaigning to remove fossil fuel money from politics, less than three months after he earned a degree in environmental studies at the University of Montana.

The Georgia-born Democrat, Daniel Carlino, along with three other democratic candidates and two republican candidates, is campaigning for the District 4 position on the Montana Public Service Commission.

Voting for the Missoula Public Service Commission, which is responsible for regulating the rates and service quality for “investor-owned electric, natural gas, water, waste-water, and legacy telecommunication companies,” will be held June 2. Carlino began campaigning for the seat last June, when he was still in classes.

“It certainly made it easier to campaign on campus,” said Carlino in an Instagram message. “But it was also like juggling a bunch of things at [once] with work as well.”

Like many UM students, Carlino moved to Montana because he had a passion for the outdoors. As he attended classes, he worked at Finn and Porter over the summer and at his family’s farm in Lolo during the fall.

Carlino said he plans to support more wind, solar and hydro-storage infrastructure in Montana. He thinks NorthWestern Energy could achieve 100% clean, renewable energy for Montana by 2025, if the company invests resources in renewable energy sources, rather than coal or gas.

“NorthWestern Energy is currently around 65% renewable power, but they want to greatly increase their fossil fuel consumption to meet peak demands,” Carlino said. “But they should invest in the future of renewables with hydro-pumped storage instead.”

Carlino cited the Gordon Butte Project, a hydro-pumped storage facility capable of storing up to 400 megawatts, which “involves pumping water from a lower body of water to an upper body of water to create stored energy for future use.”

Carlino said he also wants to bring in more sustainable and environmental-



University of Montana graduate Daniel Carlino speaks to a crowd of voters at a political discussion at Burns St. Bistro on Feb 10. Democrat Kim Dunkim, who is running for state attorney general, also led a discussion at the meeting and answered questions. Contributed | JOHN PAUL EDGE

ly friendly energy sources to Missoula. He signed a pledge not to accept donations from the fossil fuel industry.

“When we are dealing with the worst fire seasons, droughts, pollution and more extreme weather in our state than ever before, it is a necessity to transition to clean, sustainable utilities,” Carlino’s campaign website states.

Though Carlino is running as a Democrat, he said he does not like the two party system. He said he leans more toward democratic socialism and advocates for Bernie Sanders’ implementation of a Green New Deal. While there is no Green Party in Montana, committed members of the party are trying to get supporters on the ballot and into office.

Carlino said he also opposes systematic oppression. He said he wants to prevent the redlining of school districts – when city planners purposefully place traditionally poorer communities in worse school districts.

On Feb. 26, the Missoula Democrats will host a forum at 7 p.m. at The Roxy Theater.

All three Democrats support sustainable energy, so the event will give Carlino an opportunity to distinguish himself. He will debate democratic opponents Brett Rosenberg and Monica Tranel.

Tranel, from eastern Montana, is a Missoula attorney and a former Olympic rower at Gonzaga University. She worked for the Office of Consumer Counsel for two years, and she said she wants to invest in wind and solar energy. Rosenberg, from Kansas City, worked with mayors across the U.S. to address local environmental policies, including those related to industrial wastewater treatment in Washington DC. Bryan Von Lossberg, a City of Missoula council member, will moderate the forum.

Despite graduating last year, Carlino is still involved on campus. The Sunrise movement, a group that Carlino helps lead at UM, is a climate action group with over 300,000 members nationwide that meets on the UM campus once a week. Sunrise teaches students

about climate change, offering them tools like open, civil discussion with leaders about removing fossil fuel money from politics.

The group’s main objective has been to travel across the state and invite politicians to sign the “no fossil fuel money pledge,” like Carlino has.

Along with the Sunrise movement, Carlino and his fellow “no fossil fuel” advocates have been leading other events and marches across Missoula to raise awareness “to make climate change an urgent priority across America, end the corrupting influence of fossil fuel executives on our politics.” Carlino and some of his supporters attended the Wet’suwet’en protest in downtown Missoula on Valentine’s Day.

“[It’s] going to get crazy in eastern Montana when they try putting the Keystone XL Pipeline there later this year. We’re reaching out to organizers around there now,” Carlino said, after the protest.

Leap into Leap Day weekend: music, poetry and basketball

Wednesday 26

PROSE AND POEMS

Poetry has returned! Student Involvement Network and the Oval Magazine are holding a written word, open mic event. And now, a haiku- Come to Branch Center, Sign up at seven: four five. Meet other artistic individuals, share your creative expression and relax and listen to others’ works. Branch Center, 8 p.m.

Thursday 27

LADY GRIZ BASKETBALL VS NORTHERN ARIZONA

Cheer on your favorite women’s basketball team as they take on Arizona! The game starts at 7 p.m. in the Dahlberg Arena of the Adams Center. Tickets are \$2 for discount and \$8-\$17 for regular. Dahlberg Arena, 7 p.m.

SCREENING: “FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL: ENDING JIM CROW IN ALASKA”

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment with a free screening of the film “For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska” UC Theater, 7 p.m.

PLANETARIUM: “THE MOST ANCIENT LIGHT IN THE COSMOS”

Join UM’s Department of Physics and Astronomy for a tour of the current night sky, as well as presenter Mark Reiser’s topic of choice, “The Most Ancient Light in the Cosmos.” Showtimes are 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Star Gazing Room of the Payne Family Native American Center. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under.

Friday 28

TRAVIS YOST AT HIGHLANDER BEER

Travis Yost performs LIVE at the Highlander TapHouse. All ages are welcome. Highlander Brewing, 6 p.m.

GRAD-CON

The UM Graduate Conference will be held on the third floor of the University Center. The conference is free and open to the public. All members of the UM campus community are encouraged to attend and participate.

Saturday 29

LADY GRIZ VS SACRAMENTO STATE

Cheer on your favorite women’s basketball team as they take on Sacramento! The game starts at 2 p.m. in the Dahlberg Arena of the Adams Center. Tickets are \$2 for discount and \$8 to \$17 for regular.

LYLE LOVET AND HIS ACOUSTIC GROUP

Logjam Presents is welcoming back Lyle Lovett and his Acoustic Group live in concert at The Wilma at 7 p.m. All ages are welcome and tickets are available online.

THE MISSOULA SYMPHONY

Five exceptional conductors from around the globe will come to Missoula this concert season as finalists for the next Music Director. Each finalist has selected a unique program showcasing their talents and distinct styles. Dennison Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday 1

EMO NIGHT MISSOULA

It’s your favorite night of the week if you love dancing to sad tunes. It’s Dead Hipster’s Emo Night! Enjoy (or emo out to) Panic! At the Disco, Blink-182 and My Chemical Romance. The event begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Badlander, for ages 21+.

Monday 2

PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES

Dr. David Abram, author and philosopher, will speak in a seminar titled “Magic and the Machine: Technology and Wonder in an Age of Ecological Wipeout” at 3 p.m. in Gallagher Business Building room 123. Later, Abram will present the next President’s Lecture Series event, “The Commonwealth of Breath: Climate and Consciousness in Animistic Perspective,” at 7:30 p.m. in the Dennison Theatre. Included also is the Brennan Guth Memorial Lecture in Environmental Philosophy. Both events are free and open to the public.

Tuesday 3

COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES

Sara Rinfret, UM Master of Public Administration director and Department of Public Administration and Policy chair, presents as part of the UM Alumni Association’s Community Lecture Series, “Honoring the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and What it Means to Be an American.” University Center Theater, 7 p.m.

MOUNTAIN MEDLEY CHORAL CONCERT

The School of Music presents University Choir and Chamber Choral, featuring choirs from Hellgate High School and C.S. Porter Middle School, 7:30 p.m. in the Dennison Theatre. Tickets are available on Griztix; \$11 general, \$6 senior, kids under 18 and students get in free.

Intimacy coaching: Keeping actors safe behind the scenes

MEGHAN JONAS

meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

Elle makes direct eye contact with Diego, tapping her arms up and down slowly. Her hands are direct and obvious, signifying exactly where she consents to be touched. The movements are casual but clear. She places her hands in front of her and Diego makes a motion, almost like knocking, into her hands. There is no room for misinterpretation.

Elle takes Diego's hand, tapping the same places she did a moment ago. The eye contact is consistent throughout. They end the brief exchange and do not need to breathe a sigh of relief.

There is no exchange of power in these small moments. There is no sense of discomfort or tension in the rehearsal space, as intimacy coach and visiting theater professor Mark Plonsky walks through the room, using huge gestures and making direct eye contact with the actors around him. "If you need to say button, you can say button, no big deal."

It looks like a rehearsed dance, and that is because it is. These touches are choreographed, predictable, safe, repeatable and, most importantly, consensual.

The University of Montana's production of "Spring Awakening" is bringing consent centerstage. The show focuses on young teenagers coming into their sexuality, even if that doesn't always translate in a healthy way. It's a musical that is explicit in nature. The sexual nature of the show could have opened the door for abuse, whether that be physical or emotional. But through intimacy coaching, actors are kept safe.

Plonsky has seen firsthand what rehearsing intimate scenes without guidance or a true acknowledgment of consent is like. Plonsky acted for years before arriving at UM and taking on the role of intimacy coach. He has been in the role officially for three years, but says he has been doing it in the shows he has been in for much longer.

He describes rehearsing a sex scene

for a play in 2006. "It was a shit show," he said. He relays the story of being told by a director to "just go for it." Plonsky and his costar were left feeling awkward and uncomfortable. "It delivered a crap narrative."

Plonsky's story is not one of abuse. While he was uncomfortable, he said he was not taken advantage of in the way many actors and actresses in the era of #MeToo were. Still, it wasn't ideal.

Plonsky describes actors protecting themselves from abuse like a musician protecting their instrument. A conductor wouldn't expect a violinist to smash her violin just to produce a beautiful, but destructive cacophony. In that same vein, an actor shouldn't risk the health of their body and their mind to make something seem authentic, especially when it isn't necessary.

When an actor's bodies are their job, they have to keep themselves safe.

There are no innuendos in intimacy coaching. The words used are anatomical. Even a look is choreographed with technical accuracy. An audience may see a man staring at a woman's chest, but the actors see a character staring at the upper sternum for five counts.

It's this technical precision that creates accountability. Stage manager Kaylee Osentowski records every move in her notebook. Every action can be traced back to a source. There is no room for doubt or gray area.

"Essentially, intimacy coaching is choreography within the boundaries of consent," Plonsky said.

The finale of "Spring Awakening" is a "dramatic coda," said Director John DeBoer. The exercises the actors use will be on full display, without the costumes or the characters. It is a fitting end to an intense show, giving audiences the chance to breathe. These characters are fictional, but the people playing them are not. DeBoer said to the actors, "you are you, be you."

It is time to shed the fiction of the show.

It is here where the actors are returning to themselves. They are no longer char-



Elle Fisher and Diego Kjelland practice the final scene. The play ends with "The Song of Purple Summer." Director John DeBoer explained to the actors that this part is meant to be an uplifting end and encouraged them to sing with that thought in mind. PHOTOS SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

acters, they are college students wearing their own clothes and living their own lives. Here, audiences will be able to see the process of intimacy coaching.

As they sing, actors explicitly show where they consent to be touched. The locations are places non-actors wouldn't expect. If someone is focusing on their head, they touch their ears, their hair, the back of the neck. This finale is an inside look into the process the actors go through and a welcome entrance back into reality.

Junior Diego Kjelland plays Melchior, one of the main characters, and the one who initiates much of the intimacy in the show. Intimacy coaching was an essential part of his process.

Kjelland has done intimacy coaching before in the previous UM show "American Idiot," but he says this was by far the most intense intimacy coaching he has ever done.

"Theater can get tricky," Kjelland said. "It shouldn't be a 'just go for it' thing."

Kjelland and costar Elle Fisher would map out their characters' kiss with their

hands for weeks. Even with that simple motion, every move was choreographed.

He acknowledges that intimacy coaching can make the acting process more difficult in terms of technicality, but for him it is worth the extra time. Kjelland said the intimacy coaching has helped him separate himself from his character. He's grateful for how much safer it is for him mentally and physically.

DeBoer assures audiences that the show isn't just about sex, however.

"Spring Awakening" is based on a play written in 1891. The musical has continued to stay relevant after its 2006 Broadway debut and Deaf West's production in 2015. DeBoer said that the themes in the show, such as attraction, the boundaries between friendship and intimacy, failure, depression and the shift from childhood into adulthood, continue to stay relevant, no matter the era.

"Trying to navigate those changes alone can be tragic," DeBoer said.

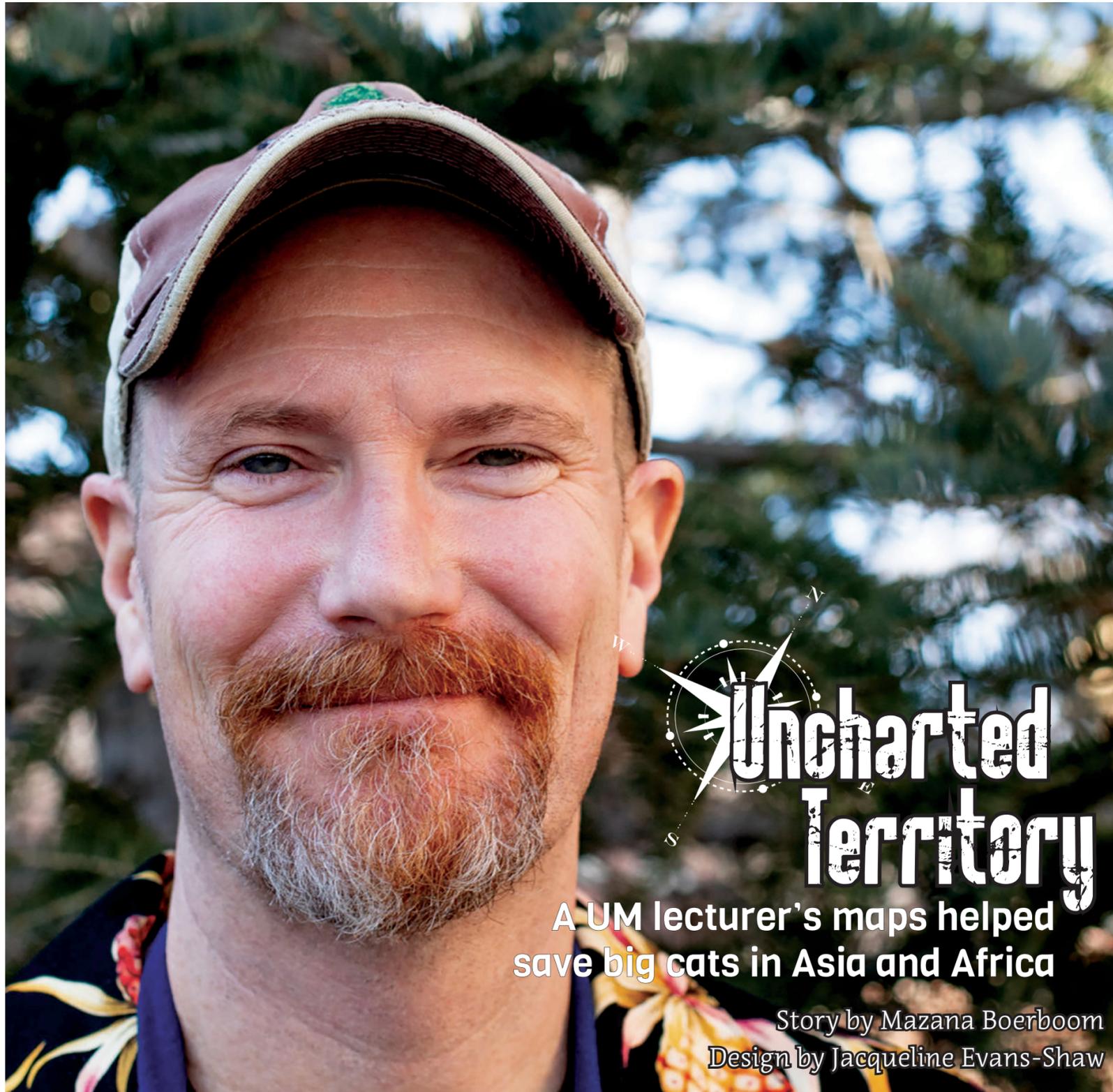
"Spring Awakening" runs at UM's Masquer Theatre from March 4 to 8 and 11 to 20.



Renee Ross, left, and Luke Cusomato, right, touch each other on the spots in which they previously consented. Ross plays Ilse, one of the young girls in the town where the play is set. She leads the rest of the cast onto the stage during the final song.



Intimacy coach Mark Plonsky coaches the cast during practice for the last scene of "Spring Awakening." In the scene, partners show each other where they are OK with being touched. "Spring Awakening" is a rock musical that explores sexual consent and teenage sexuality.



Uncharted Territory

A UM lecturer's maps helped save big cats in Asia and Africa

Story by Mazana Boerboom

Design by Jacqueline Evans-Shaw

STUDENTS LEAVE BEHIND the uncomfortable plastic seats and fluorescent lights of the lecture room in Stone Hall each Tuesday and Thursday as they're transported across space and time.

Geographic information systems and cartography lecturer Kevin McManigal weaves together stories of science, maps and adventure in his GIS and cartography courses every week.

He describes the history of mapping from the scratchings of cavemen, to the entrancing and intricate medieval Mappa Mundi, to Roger Tomlinson introducing the world to GIS in the 20th century.

He describes jets of incredible speed that capture aerial images from above the earth.

He describes his expedition to Mongolia, where wandering families of nomads set up yurts wherever they please, and people roam the wide-open landscape on horses, with nothing but grass and sky for miles and miles.

McManigal has taught at the University of Montana for just under 10 years, after he finished his Master's degree in geography at UM in 2011. His classes are almost always full as students come back each semester for more of his passionate storytelling.

He spends around 16 hours each week in labs with students, where he can walk them through almost any problem they encounter. He could let his TAs run the labs, but he loves being there to help students through frustrating spots and to see the "light bulb" moment when they find the solution.

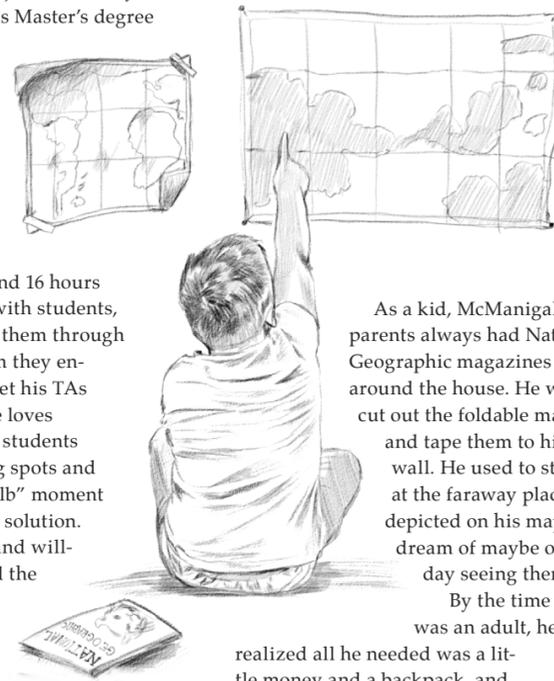
"His openness and willingness to help and the effort he puts into helping students is phenomenal," said Darcy Chenoweth, a post-bachelor student who came back to school for her

GIS certificate. She's taking an independent study class with McManigal after finishing his three GIS courses.

As students move up into the advanced GIS and cartography classes and independent studies, McManigal assigns them to real world projects. As someone with an artistic and scientific background, Chenoweth enjoyed the advanced cartographic design class where she created a map for the Cascade Wolverine Project to track the impact of climate change on the animal's habitat.

With the help of students, such as Chenoweth and those sitting in his class now, McManigal created vividly detailed maps of uncharted wilderness that made their way to rangers combating tiger poaching over 7,000 miles across the world.

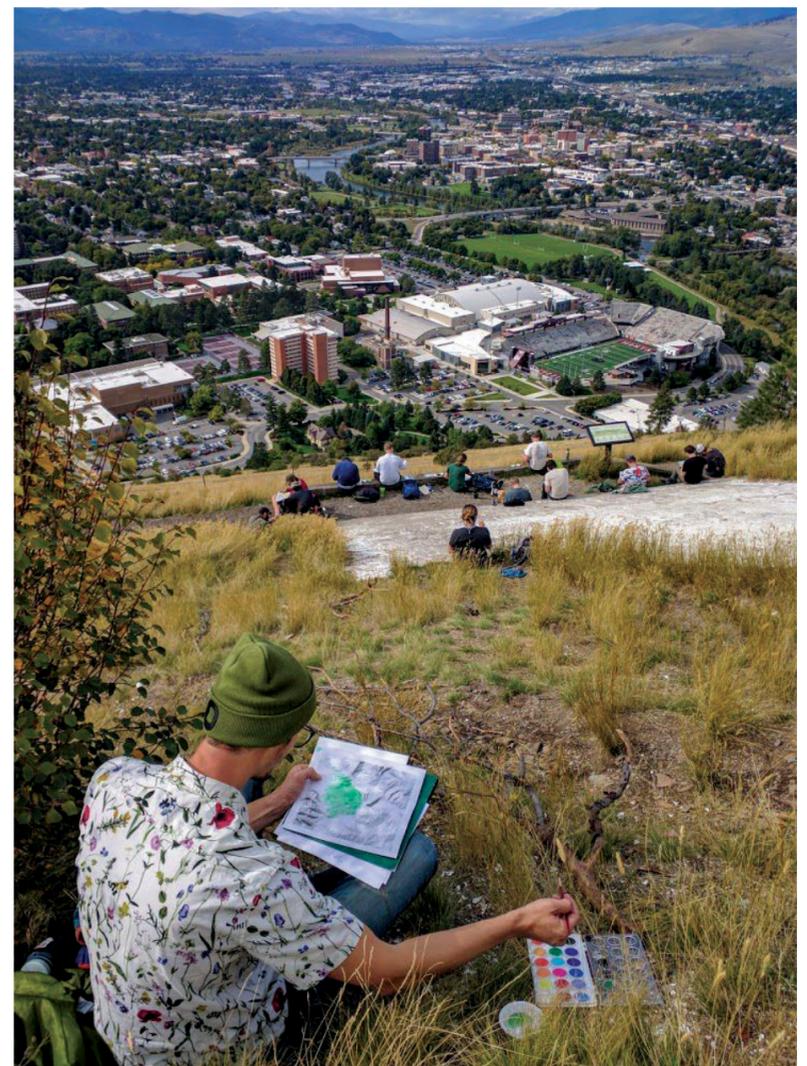
Over the past six years, McManigal has been in partnership with an international wild cat conservation organization called Panthera. He and dozens of his students have worked together to create more than 100 maps for Panthera, 70 of which are high-resolution topographic maps made for navigation.



As a kid, McManigal's parents always had National Geographic magazines laying around the house. He would cut out the foldable maps and tape them to his wall. He used to stare at the faraway places depicted on his maps and dream of maybe one day seeing them.

By the time he was an adult, he realized all he needed was a little money and a backpack, and he could fly anywhere.

At 22 years old, he worked his way up to director at the YMCA Bluff Lake summer camp in Big Bear, California, that he had attended since he was 6. He worked there until his late 20s, in that



Cartography lecturer Kevin McManigal brought his advanced cartography students up the "M" to paint maps in the fall of 2019. He wants his students to understand the artistic side of map making. "I think that's important, not to lose that desire, that passion for beautiful cartographic design," McManigal said.

time performing hundreds and hundreds of campfire songs and skits.

From there, he moved on to the Boojum Institute of Experiential Education in Southern California to be a climbing instructor. The school brought kids of all ages on outdoor adventures and into the field to learn about the world around them.

He left Boojum and spent the summer of 1999 sleeping in his tent on the back end of a golf course in Valdez, Alaska, and guiding travelers in a sea kayak to see the beautiful glaciers of the state. It was on one of those trips

that he met a traveler from Switzerland who would later become his wife.

He realized he couldn't expect her to live with him in a tent on a golf course, and so, at 30 years old, he decided to go to college and build a more stable life for himself. He attended school in California at the College of the Redwoods and then Humboldt State University.

He graduated from Humboldt State in 2006 with a degree in geography, a certificate in GIS and a minor in German — so he could attempt to communicate with his wife's family in Switzerland.

After getting his degree, McManigal



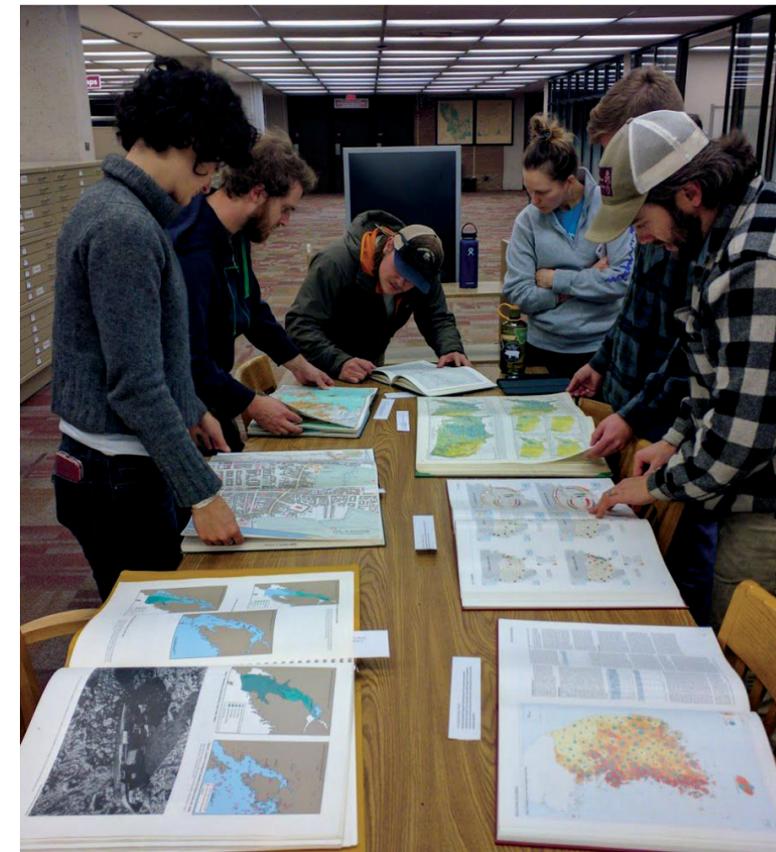
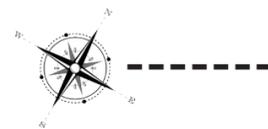
Lecturer Kevin McManigal explains details of a map of Bhutan to GIS Jams students. GIS stands for geographic information systems mapping. McManigal works to create "maps that inform and inspire."

and his wife took an around-the-world trip ending in Switzerland, where they would live for the next two years. While living in Switzerland, McManigal had an accident skiing in the Alps and broke his knee. He was helicoptered out and went through intense physical therapy to get back in shape. During the recovery, he started looking into GIS jobs and found two prospects in the States, one in Washington, D.C., and one in Missoula.

After considering the two options, McManigal and his wife decided on the mountains that Missoula offered. He accepted a job at Adventure Cycling in Missoula and the two moved back to the States on St. Patrick's Day in 2008, so he could earn his Master's degree in geography at UM. During his grad school experience, McManigal did two thesis projects after being funded to go

to both Bhutan and Mongolia. He finished his Mongolian expedition with two weeks to spare. During that time, he attended a rock festival, saw what he swears was the apparition of a Ganges-era Mongolian warrior and taught campfire songs to an English teaching summer camp that he came across. UM offered McManigal a full-time position a year after earning his graduate degree in 2011.

In 2014, he was approached by Hugh Robinson from Panthera with an ambitious project.



Advanced cartography students examine the atlas collection in the Mansfield library to gain inspiration for the atlases they would make for class in the fall of 2019.

"We have a problem," Robinson told McManigal, describing the situation of rangers in southern Asian countries fighting poachers. Rangers were patrolling dense jungles without any clue where they were going without decent maps of the regions. Robinson said they needed high resolution paper topographic maps to help the rangers navigate.

"Can we do it?" Robinson asked. It was possible, but the real question from McManigal was: "Do we have any data?" "No," Robinson said. Robinson is the director of applied science for Panthera, which has headquarters in New York. Robinson can do the work from UM, where he did his post-doctoral research on wolves, caribou and cougars. He has basic knowledge of GIS and often makes small informational maps for the organization, but he didn't have the skills to create highly technical maps needed

by rangers from basically nothing. McManigal and a group of his students took on the project. Their first site was Parsa Wildlife Reserve in Nepal. The more than 200,000 acres offer a natural habitat for tigers that have been driven out by poachers. The worldwide tiger population has decreased by 96% in the last century, and just under 4,000 of them remain in the wild. John Goodrich, Panthera's chief scientist and the director for the tiger program, said there are three main threats to tigers: tiger-human conflict, habitat loss and poaching. Goodrich said that tigers, and other large cats, are essential to the habitats they live in. As predators on top of the food chain, they impact every other species below them. If they are doing well, Goodrich said, then the rest of the habitat is doing well, too. The cultural significance of tigers

also makes them what's known as a flagship species. As long as a protected area is being preserved for the sake of tigers, people in countries like India can understand the need for wild habitats. If they lose tigers, there might be nothing stopping people from destroying wilderness that's fundamental in preserving things like water sources. "If we can't protect such an iconic species, and a species that the human race so clearly values so strongly, you really have to ask the question: what can you protect?" Goodrich said. Since no data existed at the resolution needed for the maps, about a dozen GIS students were paid to hand digitize satellite imagery of Parsa donated from DigitalGlobe. The process took months, and each map cost around \$1,000 to produce.

After the Parsa maps, they also made maps for tigers in Manas National Park in India, and Kenyir Taman Negara National Park in Malaysia and then for lions in Niokolo Koba National Park in Senegal. Nathaniel Robinson (no relation to Hugh Robinson) is a conservation scientist at Panthera. Nathaniel finished his Ph.D in forestry at UM in 2017. He took many of McManigal's GIS classes and was a TA for two years. He was also a part of each of the Panthera mapping sites in some capacity.

Nathaniel remembers outlining every structure he could find in the satellite imagery of Kenyir Taman Negara in Malaysia. Each cartographer spent hours tracing roads and trails centimeter by centimeter, and identifying every random building they encountered in the middle of the dense jungle. By the end, students had an intimate knowledge of a landscape they had never been to. "Who knew some students in Montana would know some secrets in the forest of Malaysia?" Nathaniel said. Another student who worked on the Panthera maps, Martin Viereckl, said the most exciting moment of each project was printing the maps. He remembers finishing the 20 maps of Kenyir Taman Negara and laying them out on the computer lab floor in Stone Hall. With the finished products laid side by side, they could see the full scope of their work. The locations that were mapped were determined by Panthera biologists, who

decided based on factors like funding, cat population, ecosystem health and protected status. McManigal divvied up the work among student cartographers and supervised the process. "When we needed it, he was always there with guidance," Viereckl said. "But he definitely left a lot of it up to us to figure out and to be resourceful." Viereckl said the experience gave him skills he needed to land a GIS job after he graduated with a Master's degree in geography in 2018. Right now, McManigal is working with some of his advanced students during a new lab period called GIS Jams to create smaller maps for Panthera. One is working on a map to track public sentiment on cougars around the U.S., and another is creating a story map for the Panthera website to show declining cougar ranges in North America.

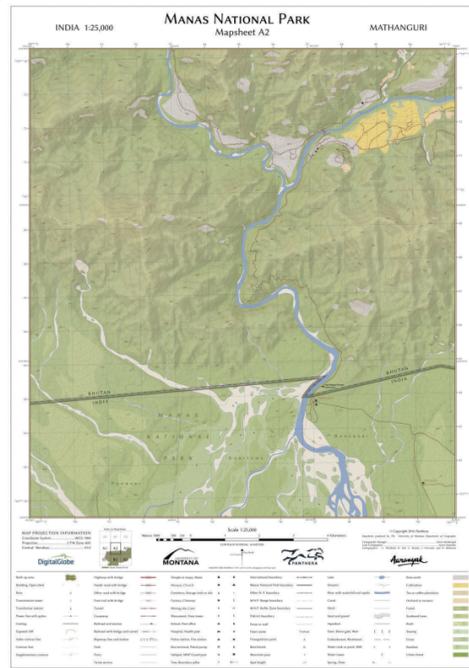
**"When we needed it, he was always there with guidance."
- Martin Viereckl about McManigal**

There are still hundreds of other sites that could use topographic maps. McManigal would love to finish the most pressing tiger sites starting in Malaysia, map the rest of Niokolo Koba National Park or start mapping the western Saudi Arabian mountains for a rare desert leopard. But, money is tight. Panthera relies on grants and donations to fund projects like McManigal's. "There's only so much conservation money to go around," McManigal said. "And within the conservation of wildlife, sometimes cartography and mapping aren't the number one priority." Hugh Robinson said it's hard for some people to understand the importance of maps, because we're all so used to being able to find our way anywhere with GPS. He remembers sitting down with a fundraiser attempting to ex-



LEFT: Rangers in Manas National Park in India review one of the maps created by McManigal and his students before heading out on patrol to fight tiger poaching in the spring of 2017.

BELOW: This map of Manas National Park in India was created by University of Montana students. The map is the first of its kind for the area, the high resolution and intricate details help rangers navigate safely through the dense jungle.



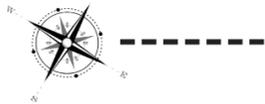
plain why the maps were needed.

“He was sitting there for 45 minutes, and I don’t think he understood until the last 10 minutes that there are places in this world where there are no maps,” Robinson said.

The maps McManigal has helped build so far are already making an impact though. Godrich said that in about a half dozen of Panthera’s tiger sites the populations have increased, in part because of the maps. In Manas National Park, tiger numbers have increased by roughly 400%. The park also gained a couple of cubs,

the first to be sighted there in years.

mfRangers in Niokolo Koba saw successes too. With accurate maps of the park they found and patrolled watering holes they hadn’t known about before.



It was during his work with Panthera that McManigal was hit with the effects of budget cuts at UM. McManigal and 32 others received dismissals from the University during the 2017-2018 school year, according to a Montana Kaimin article. Although the dismissal was withdrawn, and he was offered a lower paying part-time position, McManigal declined and left his job as a lecturer in the spring of 2018.

Tom DeLuca, dean of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, said there was nothing he could do at the time to keep McManigal on, since McManigal was paid through the

College of Humanities, which suffered deep budget cuts. “Kevin is outstanding, and it was a huge loss to have not kept him,”

“The worldwide tiger population has decreased by 96% in the last century, and just under 4,000 of them remain in the wild.”

They even caught a group of poachers camping at one of the holes. “It feels really good. It’s great to hear those stories, you know?” McManigal said.

DeLuca said.

Even though he wasn’t McManigal’s employer, DeLuca said lots of students came to him to say how unfortunate it was to lose McManigal.

McManigal retained affiliate status, meaning he could still work with students, but was no longer paid or employed by UM. He came back to campus to work on the Panthera projects with his former students every week. McManigal and DeLuca eventually crossed paths again, and he was asked to come back to teach.

The position was full time again, and DeLuca promised him at least three years of employment within the forestry school. He came back in the fall of 2018.

“Without the Panthera work, I might not have been here,” McManigal said. “I might have moved on and I might not be teaching here now.”

“Most people will be fascinated by maps, just because I believe that it’s innate in humans. We are born to be mappers.”
- Kevin McManigal

UM isn’t fully out of its budget crisis, and changes are still happening. The entire geography department was absorbed into the forestry school in fall 2019. The GIS certificate is being reduced from 20 credits to 18. Regardless, McManigal thinks things are heading in the right direction, and he’s happy to be teaching.

“It was a trying time. I’m not the only one. A lot of people were really hurt by what they felt was a betrayal after years of great service to the University,” McManigal said. “But, I don’t blame the people up in the administrative offices that had to do the hard thing, which was send pink slips out.”

McManigal’s classes continue to fill up, and he got a perfect score from his students on his latest evaluation.



Martin Viereckl, a cartographer on the Panthera maps for Kenyir Taman Negara National Park, sees the results of his work laid out on the floor of the lab he worked in. “I didn’t really get any other experiences like that in school,” he said later.

successful lives,” McManigal said.

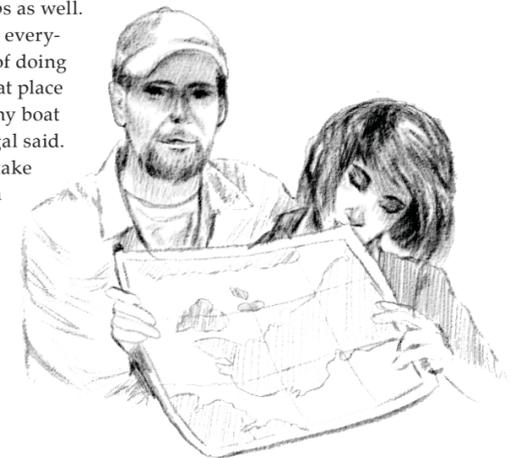
After he retires, he plans to sell everything he owns, hop on a sailboat and slowly circumnavigate the globe with his wife. He’s already started preparing. He practices in a small boat on Flathead Lake, takes classes with American Sailing Association and even helped launch the UM Sailing Club which will meet Thursday, Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m. in Stone Hall room 217.

Before then, McManigal would like to teach for a few more years, and in a perfect world he would finish mapping every one of the 18 “Tiger Forever” sites as well.

He hopes to raise \$1 million, enough to map the rest of the Panthera sites and designate the GIS lab as the “UM Center for Conservation Cartography.”

With that they could make maps for other conservation groups as well.

“I would be able to do everything I hope and dream of doing and leave things in a great place when I decide to get on my boat and sail away,” McManigal said. “But that being said, I’ll take \$50,000 too. An ice cream coupon for Big Dipper? Okay, sure, no problem.”



Irish folk group offers weekly musical escape to the Emerald Isle

AUSTIN AMESTOY

austin.amestoy@umontana.edu

With most of its chairs empty, Imagine Nation Brewing Co. oozed a mellow mood on the evening of Feb. 18. Then the trill of an Irish whistle shook it from its slumber, and a tight-knit group of musicians began their first ditty of the night. As the song ended, some early arrivals applauded.

The members of Imagine Ireland smiled and praised each other's playing.

"That was some noise," said pipe player Steve Dagger, smiling ear to ear.

Imagine Nation patrons are treated to a taste of traditional Irish music every Tuesday by Imagine Ireland, a group of musicians who, despite appearances, insist they're not a band.

"We're better than a band," said Kevin Keskeny, the group's member of strongest Irish heritage.

"We're just emulating what happens in Ireland," Dagger added.

What happens in Ireland, as they tell it, is pretty informal. Those who know the folk music of the Emerald Isle get together in bars like Imagine Nation, coming and going and playing to their hearts' content.

Besides Dagger and Keskeny, the group is completed by flutist Laurel Lundquist, fiddler Mary Angela Collins, strings expert Rick Anderson and guitarist Gary Janego.

The sextet of friends has played weekly at the pub since it opened four years ago, all specializing in traditional instruments, from pipes played using a bellows to a bodhran (pronounced "bow-ron"), a handheld drum.

The musicians began to file into the bar around 5:20 p.m. and gathered around a low table beneath a towering stained glass window. Amber glasses of the pub's finest and a paper dish of Dots Pretzels were strewn across the table.

Imagine Nation makes sure their glasses never go empty — for Imagine Ireland, it's on the house.

"Musicians' wages," Keskeny said jokingly.

As they struck up their first tune, the atmosphere in the bar transformed. Their music is unlike most everything played live in Missoula. It evokes a simple sort of feeling.

In a word?

"Happy," said Lundquist, an Irish whistle in her lap. "Just happy."

She wasn't alone in that assessment. Over the course of the next hour, the bar went from a few scattered patrons to a bustling crowd. One UM student, who arrived early for the show, said it was her third time listening in.



Gary Janego plays his guitar with Imagine Ireland on the night of Feb. 18 at Imagine Nation Brewing Co.. He also plays a bodhran, an Irish drum. PHOTOS LIAM MCCOLLUM | MONTANA KAIMIN

"Their music — obviously — is really good," Jaysha Jagers said over the noise of a particularly toe-tapping song.

Jagers, a freshman in the pre-med program, said she has strong Irish heritage, but that it's not the reason she discovered Imagine Ireland. A friend in her Irish class brought her to a show, and she fell in love with the musicians and the music.

"They're just so happy and passionate," she said. "I just love their attitude."

Jagers' friend, journalism student Brook Oswald, was the one who got Jagers hooked. Oswald is taking Irish for her language requirement and said she was in a "bit of a funk" at the start of the year. Imagine Ireland was just the cure she needed.

"It's become a weekly tradition for us to get away from the stress for a while," Oswald said.

Some of the group's followers go much further back. Before the musicians had even arrived, Gerry Blackman, 79, was perched at a tall table, drink in hand.

"I'm a groupie," she said with a grin. "I think that's

what they're called."

After a trip to Ireland years ago, she said she fell in love with the Irish folk groups she heard play.

"And Imagine Ireland's better than any of them," she said, eyebrows furrowed in determination.

Gerry was there for Imagine Ireland's first show at Imagine Nation four years ago. Now, she gathers together with friends and acquaintances each Tuesday night to share her love of the group.

As the night was picking up, one of those friends came dancing up to Gerry's table. At 7 p.m. two more joined the fray.

One of them was Kathy Olson, who said that Gerry and the musicians she adores share a tight bond.

"When we all clap, they say, 'thank you, Gerry,'" she said laughingly.

Janego, guitarist and bodhran player, had the evidence to back it up. That evening, Gerry had brought them a gift — a bottle, stowed away in a paper bag.

Imagine Ireland has a knack for bringing together people of all ages and walks of life. As the music played

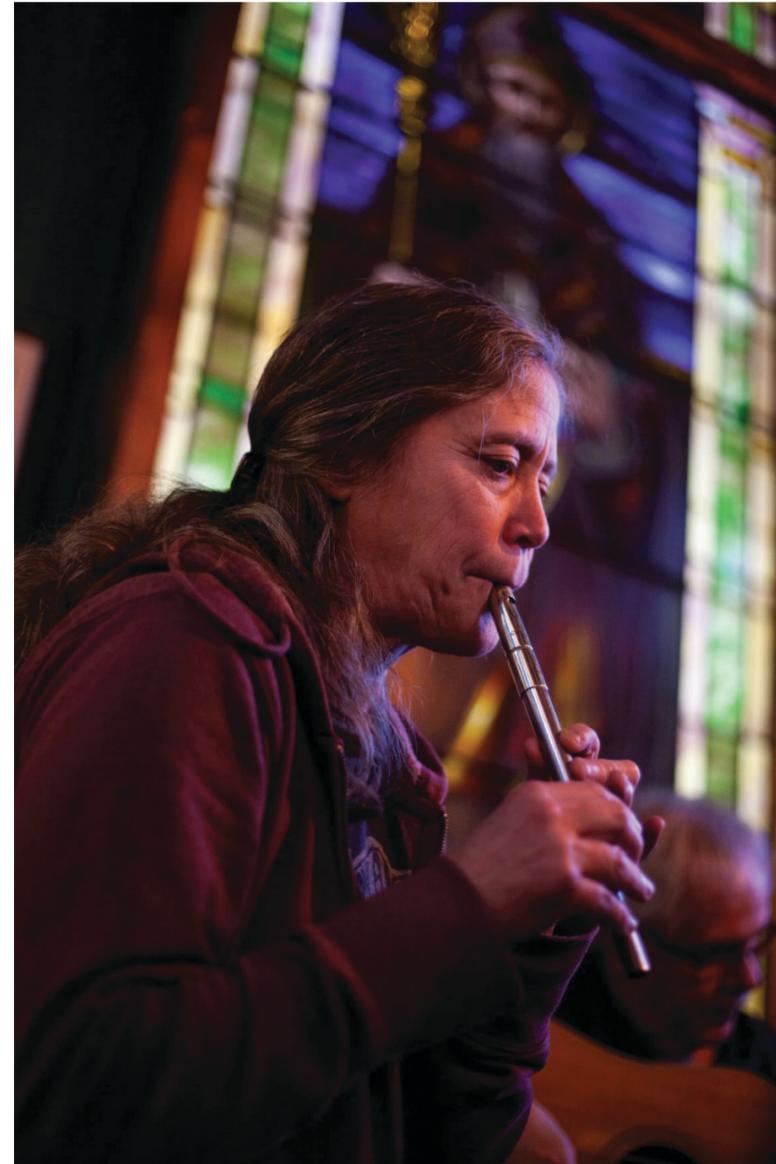
louder and the bar filled up, Gerry's table of friends listened just feet away from where two little boys were shyly approaching the musicians, dancing a bit before running off.

The joyful beat of the Irish folk tunes was so infectious, even Quixote, the huge bison on the back wall, seemed to bob his head along.

Quixote, said Keskeny, happens to be from the same bison ranch where he received the pair of thin, white bones he sometimes clicked together during songs.

According to a sign beneath Quixote, the spent grains used to make Imagine Nation's brews become feed for the bison. In a sense, Imagine Ireland's music plays, in part, from the heartstrings of the bar and the patrons who've grown to love them.

As Keskeny put it: "We found a home."



Imagine Ireland Irish flute and whistle player Laura Lindquist plays at Imagine Nation Brewing Co. On Feb. 18 night in front of a stained glass window from a church in Butte.



Kevin Keskeny's "musician's wage," drumstick and bison bones rest on the table between songs at Imagine Nation Brewing. Keskeny shakes the bison bone together to make a clacking sound, an Irish tradition.



Steve Dagger (left) and Keskeny share a laugh between songs at Imagine Nation. Imagine Ireland plays every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m.

No, stranger in the laundromat, BTS isn't 'off-beat'

MEGHAN JONAS

meghan.jonas@umontana.edu

Full disclosure: I have never listened to K-Pop. I couldn't match the names of the members to their photos on a multiple-choice quiz. I watch the intense choreo videos that always seem to find their way onto my Twitter feed for a couple of seconds before scrolling on. In other words, I'm a K-Pop newb.

It's not that I have an aversion to it, I've actually wanted to get into the genre for a long time. Really, the only excuse is that it never came up on my Spotify Discover Weekly and I'm lazy. But readers, we're not bringing excuses into 2020.

"MAP OF THE SOUL: 7" is the mega boyband success BTS' new record. It embodies what pop sounds like. As my Twitter compatriots would say, "you wanna talk about range?" This has range.

It's got hard hip-hop that shows audiences that BTS can do trap. It's got songs about friendship and the woes of being famous. You don't need to know Korean to get the meaning behind the lyrics.

I was writing this review while doing laundry at Sparkles when a 16-year-old boy complimented me on my sick headphones and asked what I was listening to. I told him I was listening to K-Pop and he said, "you mean K-Poop?"

Yes, that's right, he asked me if I was listening to "K-Poop." Another winning quote? "Ew."

"What's wrong with K-Pop?" I asked him.

"Those lyrics, they just don't line up with the beat. It's just off. It doesn't sound good."

Now, I'm not a mega fan. I'm not part of

the BTS Army. But the idea that the lyrics don't match up with the beat is just straight up factually inaccurate. If anything, the beat drives the lyrics. I was curious if he would say the same thing about any hip-hop or rap.

He insisted that it wasn't because it wasn't in English. Like, Russian music is cool and fun to listen to. He mentioned something vague about the look of K-Pop and I put my headphones back on pretty quickly.

Now, let me make something clear. I'm not insinuating that this clueless kid was a racist. Sure, he might have said that Russian music sung by white singers was better than K-Pop sung by people of color. Maybe race was his reasoning, maybe it wasn't. He probably wasn't thinking about his internal bias, he was probably just trying to make small talk with the stranger in the laundromat. To his core, he was a teenager who just really wasn't into K-Pop.

Another guy told me he thought people didn't like BTS because of all the synchronized dancing. I said, "That's just a boyband thing!" And he looked like I had just revealed a great secret of the universe.

But it's 2020. We're watching foreign films (shouts to Bong Joon Ho). We're listening to music that isn't sung in English. We're not letting subtitles or language barriers dictate what we like and what we listen to. At least, I'm definitely not. And since K-Pop is redefining pop music and what it means to be a global sensation every day, random people in the laundromat shouldn't either.



Courtesy Photo | IBIGHIT.COM

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REBUILDING AMERICA



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PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING
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Best-selling author and journalist Nick Kristof explores the economic and social upheaval that has left communities across America struggling and how people are coming together to rebuild the American Dream

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'Downhill' wants to be a black diamond, but it's only a bunny hill

CLINT CONNORS

clint.connors@umontana.edu

About halfway through "Downhill," there's a scene where Billie Staunton (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) finally confronts her husband Pete (Will Ferrell) about an event that's threatening their marriage. This is a beautifully crafted scene that's oddly both hilarious and heartbreaking. And it gave me hope.

Hope that the film didn't deserve a 48% on Rotten Tomatoes and the site was just being dumb (it wouldn't be the first time).

Hope that after the meandering first half, the film was finally turning into the smart, poignant dramedy it clearly wants to be.

Hope that Ferrell would finally get out of a career slump that seemed even less likely to end when he and long-time collaborator (and my favorite writer/director) Adam McKay officially parted ways.

Alas, it was all...downhill from there. I'm sorry, but I had to.

Directors Nat Faxon and Jim Rash (the Academy-Award winning screenwriters of "The Descendants") craft a second half that's even more aimless than the first, resulting in an empty, confused whole.

A remake of the Swedish film "Force Majeure," "Downhill" follows the Staunton family as they try to enjoy a ski trip in the Alps.

Their lunch is interrupted by a dangerously close avalanche. While Billie huddles by the table with her kids, Pete tries to run away, all but leaving his family for dead.

No one is hurt, but Mom and Dad's starkly different reactions to the event put a damper on both the trip and their relationship. Thus begins a war between the couple that involves fighting over their kids' love and being sexually attracted to other, younger skiers.

And suddenly, this plot is starting to sound familiar.

"Downhill" is basically "Marriage Story" on skis, and both movies suf-

fer from the same central problem: We're thrust into the dramatic tension of a crumbling romance before we're even given a chance to emotionally connect with the characters.

But at least "Marriage Story" had a consistent tone and narrative goal. "Downhill" spastically jumps between improvisational banter and tearful exchanges.

I didn't know whether to laugh, cry or yawn through each scene. Guess which option I picked.

Any chemistry the two leads have is diminished by the fact that they try to avoid each other for a good chunk of the film. It's hard to properly explore their dilemma when they don't even want to explore it.

But most heartbreaking of all is seeing Ferrell continue to be in projects that are out of his element.

His latest works don't seem to understand that the man was born and raised to be a character actor. Ferrell was at his funniest when creating kooky, absurd figures, from classy newsman Ron Burgundy ("Anchorman") to hotshot NASCAR driver Ricky Bobby ("Talladega Nights").

But for some reason, movies like "Daddy's Home," "Get Hard" and "Downhill" have been forcing him to play the well-meaning everyman, someone who's lightheaded and clumsy, but gosh darn it, he cares. This type-casting isn't horrendous, but it shields Ferrell from the unpredictability that made his early movies classics.

Occasional good jokes and directing choices aside, this meek remake doesn't improve what's been a lackluster couple of years for comedies. "Anchorman 3" can't get greenlit soon enough.



Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Will Ferrell in "Downhill."



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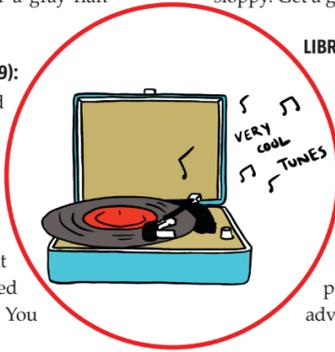
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Pisces season has us in our feels

It's a little unfair that Scorpio Retrogrades make us feel chaotic in a powerful way and Pisces Retrogrades just make us chaotic. Take a vitamin D supplement and power through the next few weeks.

PISCES (FEB. 19 - MARCH 20):

Buy yourself a record player so you have an excuse to go to Rockin' Rudy's and look through the vinyl. Wear a gray flannel. You belong now.



ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19):

Do something wild and out of character and delete your social media accounts. "Who even cares anymore?" you'll ask yourself, before you remember that your crush just started following you. Oopsie! You care.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23 - OCT. 22):

Go to the library to study and try not to get too distracted by your crush fully taking a nap in the autobiographies section. We realize that suddenly President Calvin Coolidge in VERY interesting, but if you don't pass this ethics midterm, your adviser is going to lose it.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23 - NOV. 21):

Maybe — and just hear us out on this one — your relationships would do better if you told people what's bothering you instead of being the human embodiment of the side-eye emoji?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22 - DEC. 21):

Take a walk down memory lane and cleanse your Facebook account of all of your cringey seventh-grade quotes. Unless the idea of your future employer seeing your emo phase doesn't totally make you want to vomit.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22 - JAN. 19):

Spice up your life by signing off on every text and email with "xoxo, Gossip Girl." It makes you sound mysterious. Like you know a secret. Intriguing.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20 - FEB. 18):

Your Capricorn roommate just sent you a text that ended with "xoxo, Gossip Girl," and tbh, you are freaking out. How did they know that you lied when you said you went to the gym when really you could have been easily spotted at Market on Front, breakfast burrito in hand?

TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20):

When your ex pops back into the picture with the ol' 2 a.m. Insta DM, the proper response is no response. Please do not fall into this trap again!!! We are tired of hearing you ponder which emoji is the best to text back.

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20):

You could vamp up your resume and start applying for summer internships or you could take a tour of every coffee shop in town, set up your laptop, and pretend to vamp up your resume, while really just hoping that some rich stranger will fall deeply in love with you in the middle of Liquid Planet Grille and make sure you'll never have to worry about getting a job again.

CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22):

You're going to have some sort of realization. We can't be sure of the specifics but we do know it'll hit you out of the blue at 10:37 a.m. Love that for you.

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG. 22):

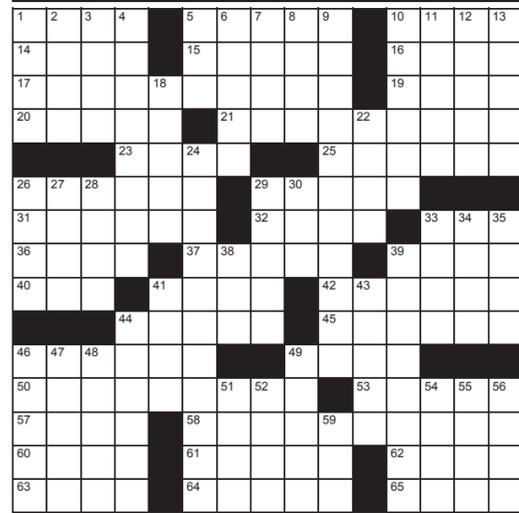
THIS IS A PSA: "Self-care" is not "throwing your planner in the garbage and eating

only sushi for the rest of the week." Tempting, definitely, but not necessarily the most responsible way to be spending your time... unless?

VIRGO (AUG. 23 - SEPT. 22):

God, maybe try proof-reading your tweets before you send them out? We know how much you hate typos but even you are getting sloppy. Get a grip Virgos, Jesus!

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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- ACROSS**
 1 Eyes, poetically
 5 Get used to
 10 Blue-green hue
 14 Castle enclosure
 15 Shut out
 16 Anagram for "guns"
 17 Like some evidence
 19 1987 film, "____ Kind of Wonderful"
 20 Don't just stand there
 21 Good person
 23 Held on to
 25 Well-expressed
 26 "Black-eyed" legume
 29 Hollywood Hawke
 31 Garden pests
 32 Bearing
 33 Pea's place
 36 Marble feature
 37 Kind of candle
 39 Right-minded
 40 Cutting tool
 41 Rotisserie rod
 42 Beat to the tape
 44 Not so nice
 45 Apprehensive
 46 Fleming, for one
 49 Bygone autocrat
 50 Hard-to-read expression
 53 Derby prize
 57 Retirees' org.
 58 Budget-minded
 60 Farm feed
 61 Fresh, as lettuce
 62 Two tablets, maybe
 63 Place for a comb
- DOWN**
 1 Epps of "House"
 2 Went horseback
 3 The Crimson Tide, familiarly
 4 Ascot fastener
 5 Infomercials, e.g.
 6 Certain believer
 7 "Waterloo" singers
 8 Oil source
 9 Like icy roads
 10 Give, as duties
 11 Job estimate
 12 Deprive of courage
 13 FBI operative
 18 Trusty mount
 22 Horse of a certain color
 24 "Had been" or "had said", e.g.
 26 Vena ____; heart vessel
 27 Columnist's page
 28 Brainiac
 29 Totally drained
 30 Even finish
 33 Prefix with graph
 34 Cross to bear
 35 Disavow
 38 Band follower?
 39 Sports no-no's
 41 Fortune teller
 43 Leave
 44 Weaponless
 46 Charley horse, e.g.
 47 Aussie "bear"
 48 Where Goodyear is headquartered
 49 24-Down is one
 51 Field measure
 52 Metal money
 54 Gerard Butler, for one
 55 Facilitate
 56 A whole bunch
 59 Select, with "for"

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Pipelines, bulldozers, border walls, OH MY

JORDYNN PAZ
 jordynn.paz@umontana.edu

For those who don't follow the news or for those of you who do and still haven't heard, the Trump administration is bulldozing through traditional Tohono O'odham burial grounds along the Arizona-Mexico border in preparation for the ridiculous border wall. This destruction is happening alongside the construction of a pipeline going through unceded Wet'suwet'en territory in British Columbia.

Both of these things, while happening in the 21st century, are not new phenomena. As we know, colonial governments have often stomped on the rights of tribal nations since the first conquistadors landed in this hemisphere. However, the thing that baffles me is that it's the year 2020 and these things are STILL happening.

Indigenous communities have consistently been pushed aside to make way for pipelines, telescopes, railroads, mines, settlers and cattle, all in the name of "westward expansion" and modernization. Now a tribal community is facing an infringement of its rights in the name of homeland security.

The Tohono O'odham people have been using the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona as a burial site for enemy warriors as well as a ceremonial gathering place since time in memoriam (time extending beyond memory or record). And now, for this ludicrous border wall, that sacred place is being blown up and bulldozed.

Many people don't understand the complicated relationship that Indigenous tribes have with the federal government, and I'm not going to explain it all right here. (If you are interested in that relationship, I recommend taking the Tribal Sovereignty class on your own time.) I will, however, explain just how Trump was able to bypass environmental and cultural impact statements in order to make this happen.



LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN

It's very simple you see. Thanks to laws passed by Congress, the Department of Homeland Security is able to exempt itself from complying with environmental and other land management regulations in order to protect our nation's borders.

That leaves people like the Tohono O'odham and environmentalists who want to protect not only cultural sites, but also biologically diverse sites such as the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument,

at the mercy of the federal government. Of course, society has always been at the mercy of the government, however, it seems like Indigenous and communities of color are always facing the brunt of the nation's dirty work.

Pipelines built through Indian lands have burst, contaminating water sources for many homes and families. And while these communities may protest in vast numbers (Standing Rock and

Wet'suwet'en), pipelines are still built bullying, yet again, the community into submission. No one bats an eye.

We as a society like to think of ourselves as human beings, but we still turn the other cheek to things that don't directly affect us or have a personal tie to. It's time "mainstream society" starts being just as outraged as we are when our traditional sites, communities and livelihoods are put in the line of fire.

Slamming nails and brews

ALEX MILLER

michael6.miller@umontana.edu

The sound of hammer to wood filled my ears. “Good, he missed,” I thought. The next hammer fell, again missing its mark. My turn now. My grip tightened on the rubber handle. The muscles in my right arm coiled with anticipation. I raised the cold steel tool and brought it down. Fuck. I missed my first swing.

The four bronze nails stared back at the four of us with disappointment. The rigid stump was pockmarked from so many misses, it felt like no one would win this round of nailschlagen.

“Nailschlagen? What’s that?” you may or may not be asking aloud right now. Well, sit down and let me ‘splain it to ya. Nailschlagen (also known as stump or hammerschlagen) is a game in which intoxicated wannabe lumberjacks and carpenters attempt to hammer a nail into a stump before the other person can. While scrambling to find a decent pitch for our weekly meetings, I Googled Missoula events, because that’s real dedication to the craft of journalism. What I found was something incredible: Highlander Beer planned to host a nailschlagen tournament. Holy shit. Not only could I drink on the job, but I also could live out my dream of being a carpenter.

“I had just discovered the secret to the universe. It was given the green light.”

Not wanting to go in totally blind, I reached out to Hannah Talbott, the general manager of Highlander Beer. Talbott used to work at a brewery in Minnesota where the game was routinely played. When she came to Highlander, she wanted to bring a little bit of that Minnesota charm with her.

“I think Montanans and Minnesotans have some similarities: Both live in states with lots of trees. Both like to drink beer, and if given the chance to hit a stump with a hammer, both probably would accept the challenge. So I figured it was worth a try,” Talbott said in our email exchange.

First things first: My mind and body must be prepared. The mind part was easy, I just



Nailschlagen comes from Germany. The goal is to get a 3 and 3/4 inch nail into a stump using a modified hammer in the least amount of swings. This event took place at the Highlander on Feb. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. The winner walked away with the golden hammer. PHOTOS EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

got drunk over the weekend. The body part, well, that needed some work. Wielding a hammer on a job site is something I’m used to. I’ve built docks sheds, guitar pedal boards and furniture. But I’m out of shape.

Not like “My god what happened to me?!” out of shape, but definitely not ready for such a physically demanding task as pummeling a nail into a thick stump. The event was Thursday, so one solid training session the night before should do the trick. I saddled up, ripped the sleeves off of a flannel, donned some REALLY short shorts and hit the gym.

With TOOL’s “Fear Inoculum” blaring in my ears, I began to work out. Biceps, triceps, shoulders and chest. These were the muscle groups that would propel me to victory. I’ve never had so many people stare at me while pumping iron.

Maybe it was because of my incredible style and strength, or maybe it was the fact that I had a photographer with me.

The day of the event had arrived. I donned my secret weapon, that same cut off gray and white flannel, and headed to Highlander Beer. Before imbibing some pregame beverages, I spoke with Nancy Greger, the marketing coordinator for the brewery.

The taproom manager was out sick, so Greger was heading up the event for the first time. She was putting the finishing touches on the grand prize: the golden hammer. Astonishingly, it only took one coat of gold spray paint.

“You don’t have to do anything but stand and hit a hammer,” Greger said. “And you could win a full growler of beer AND the golden hammer.”

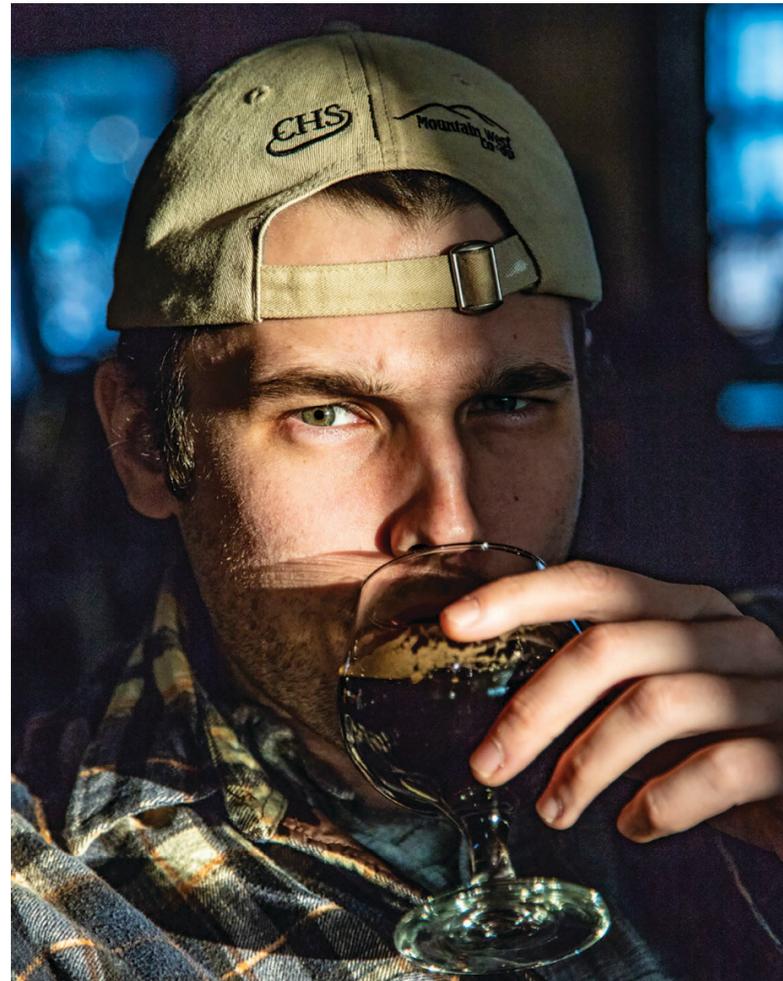
Sold. The event was set up tournament style, with four brackets of four players each. With mountains of hubris, I signed up as the first competitor.

My pregame began with a Castle Rock Chocolate Oatmeal Stout. It had the highest alcohol by volume. I would grow to regret that.

I was getting nervous, but fortunately, I wasn’t sweating thanks to the superb ventilation my cutoff flannel provided. Suddenly, a bell rang, signaling that the tournament was beginning.

With precious minutes to spare, I ran outside and lit up a cigarette. “This is for journalism, Alex,” I said to myself.

The low slung sun cast its golden rays, painting the small, raised stage near the



Alex Miller, Kaimin reporter, drinks a Fortress Rock Chocolate Oatmeal Stout to prepare for the Nailschlagen tournament. Drinking a beer is encouraged, but not required before competing.

swinging double doors of Highlander. Atop the small platform sat two metal stools with freshly cut stumps, each with four bronze nails gently tapped into the wood. The time for nailschlagen was upon us, I could feel the tension mounting in my mildly drunken bones.

Something they don’t tell you at nailschlagen school is that aiming at a small nail is hard after you’ve been drinking. To make matters worse it wasn’t a regular hammer. The tool lacked the familiar claws on the back, but it was outfitted with a chisel instead. We were not allowed to use the actual hammering side of the hammer. Rather, we had to make do with the thin, pointed chisel portion.

So there I was, with my bracket. We all missed on the first go-around, but then the two burlier competitors started to connect

their swings. Their deft strikes were like triumphant blows from Thor’s Mjolnir. After each miss, I let out a dismayed cry. This was for journalism, dammit, I had to win.

Eventually, my swings started to connect. Things were looking up, but then my nail bent. Fuck. I spent a turn fixing it, but the damage was done. I was too far behind. With one powerful strike, the winner of my bracket drove the nail home, leaving it flat with the surface of the stump.

The stinging taste of defeat filled my mouth, which as it turned out tasted a lot like Zootown IPA. I had fought for journalism and I had lost for journalism. Greger did give me some good news though. Highlander is considering making this a monthly event. Looks like I’ve got a shot at redemption.



ABOVE: Miller takes another swing in the Nailschlagen Tournament. Fellow competitors watch Miller with anticipation.

BELOW: Miller examines one of the nails in the stump before competing in the Nailschlagen tournament.



Softball launches historic multi-month road journey

GRIFFEN SMITH

griffen.smith@umontana.edu

The University of Montana softball team has a knack for playing on the road. Just three weeks into the 2020 season, the Griz already traveled to Louisiana, Nevada and Arkansas, playing 15 games.

"They're road warriors. They have been since the start of this program," head coach Melanie Meuchel said. "We just try to recover while we are back in Missoula and get back out on the road again."

Montana, currently 5-5, will not play its first game in Missoula until April 1, making 2020 the longest opening road stretch in the history of the team. Before the Griz have a home game, the team still has to play in California, Arizona, Utah and Idaho.

Meuchel said the team usually doesn't play softball in Missoula until mid-March due to the cold weather conditions. But, this year's lengthy road stint is due to two teams pulling out of a Montana-hosted tournament.

The team, according to Meuchel, is well prepared to play the long road haul.

"Our sport challenges the athletes to be on the road at various tournaments throughout the summer, and so I think they are pretty conditioned for it," Meuchel said.

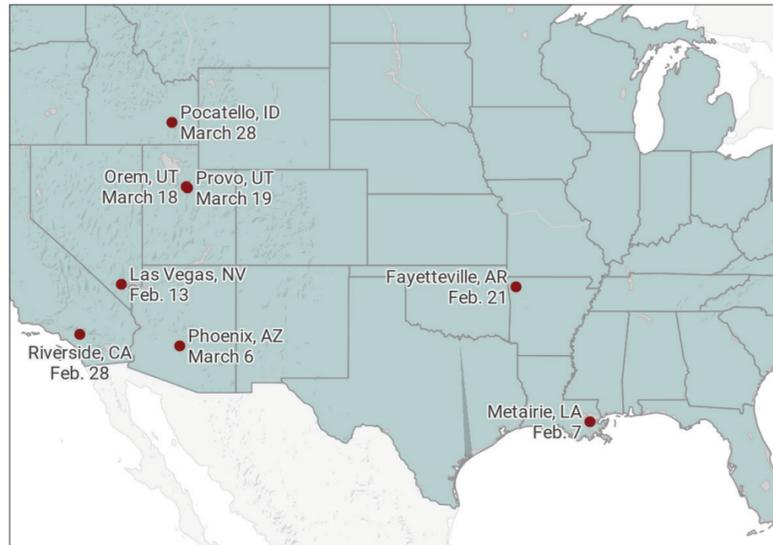
Combined with the loss of the home tournament, Montana's Big Sky Conference schedule starts with a bye week, then a trip to Pocatello, Idaho to play Idaho State.

"I think we know coming to school at UM that we don't get to play at home for a while," pitcher Tristin Achenbach said. "We just take whatever opportunity to play. Whether that's here or not we just kinda have to take it and run with it."

Achenbach, a third-year player with the team, found success at the team's first tournament in Metairie, Louisiana. She managed a record of 3-1, had 25 strikeouts and an error rating of just 0.28, the lowest in her career.

That tournament featured Louisiana Tech and Texas Tech, two NCAA tournament teams.

After defeating Louisiana Tech 4-3, Achenbach and Montana dropped to the Red Raiders 1-2 in 10 innings.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Griz softball will venture across the country for games in both February and March of 2020. This is the longest road spell in the history of Griz softball.

CASSIDY ALEXANDER | MONTANA KAIMIN

"It was really fun to get out there and compete against a ranked team," Achenbach said. "It was not the outcome that we wanted, but it's nice to know that we can get out there and compete with anybody."

The softball team stays in Missoula roughly three or four days a week before getting into cars and driving to tournaments on weekends. For freshman Julie Phelps, staying ahead of her academics is a priority during long stretches out of town.

"I have a lot of calendars," Phelps said. "And, if I need, to I go to my academic adviser to help plan out my days and my schedules."

Phelps said one important part of traveling on the road is mentally preparing oneself. She often spends time in the car visualizing games and planning how she will make plays. She recorded one hit and a game-winning RBI against conference rival Weber State Feb. 15, helping the Griz win 4-3 in eight innings.

Though the Griz have a long journey ahead, Phelps is grateful for the program.

"I wish we could have more home games and we could have more Griz fans here," Phelps said. "But it's really exciting to go out and adventure with my family."

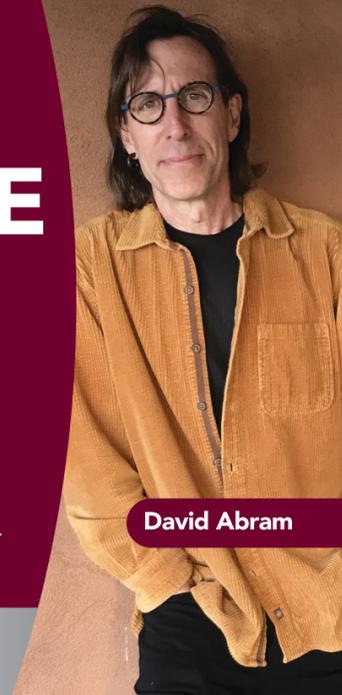
UM returns to Grizzly Softball Field on April 1 to play Providence University at 2 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES

7:30 p.m.
Monday, March 2
Dennison Theatre

Free and open to the public. Seating is limited. To request disability-related modifications for this event, please call 406-243-4866.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA



David Abram

UM women's tennis finds new freshman star

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

UM tennis athlete Olivia Oosterbaan traveled with the team to East Lansing, Michigan Feb. 9, where she took on an opponent who she faced many times in high school, Xavier University's Anna Roggenburk. Even though Oosterbaan had never beaten Roggenburk before, the UM freshman won a thrilling tiebreaker in front of her family.

"She got a chance to show all stuff that she's been working on for the last six months," said UM head women's tennis coach Steve Ascher. "It was a special moment for sure."

Oosterbaan's family traveled over three hours from her hometown of Hinsdale, Illinois, to Michigan to watch the match. She was the only athlete from UM able to pick up a win against Xavier.

Prior to attending UM, Oosterbaan's attended Hinsdale Central High School, where she was a three-time Illinois state champion in 2015, 2017 and 2018. She was also ranked as a four-star recruit coming out of high school on tennisrecruiting.net's five-star scale.

During her senior season of high school, Oosterbaan was named Conference MVP. She ranked the 10th best prep player in Illinois and the 23rd best prep player in the Great Lakes region her senior year.

When it was time to decide where to go to college, the decision wasn't hard for Oosterbaan. "I was looking to go out west, I've always wanted to experience that and be in the mountains," she said. "When I visited, I just really loved it (UM)." She was also recruited by The University of Miami in Ohio and the University of Arizona.

In late September, she made early strides for UM with a win at the Idaho State Invitational over Idaho State's Madison Fenske before she narrowly lost in the quarterfinal to Utah State's Annaliese County.

In October of 2019, Oosterbaan upset UNLV's Izumi Asano 6-4 and 7-6 before advancing to the round of 16 at the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Mountain Regional in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was then able to take down Weber State's Ana Morett before losing to New Mexico's Alisia Manolescu.

At the San Diego State Invitational in November of 2019, the freshman also went 2-1, including an impressive win over San Diego State junior Abbie Mulbarger.

So far in 2020, the UM women's tennis team has started with a 1-6 record after a tough early schedule where it has taken on teams such as Minnesota, Utah and Michigan State. The team has no seniors and five of the seven athletes are sophomores and juniors.

Montana's lone win was against Grand Canyon University, when Oosterbaan teamed up with Julia Ronney to win a doubles match 6-4.

"The team has really helped me boost my doubles and singles game so far," Oosterbaan said.

Oosterbaan has one singles win and two doubles wins so far in 2020. When asked if there's anything she has had to adjust to since moving to Missoula, she said, "being more outdoorsy. Everyone in Missoula is always up to something no matter what the weather."

UM will travel to Northern Arizona on Feb. 27 for its next round of matches that will open Big Sky Conference play. The Big Sky Conference Championship will be in Phoenix Arizona on April 23.



TOP: University of Montana freshman Olivia Oosterbaan prepares to receive a serve during the singles match against the Minnesota Gophers on Jan. 18. SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

BOTTOM: University of Montana freshman Olivia Oosterbaan waits for a serve from she and Julia Ronney's Grand Canyon University doubles opponents on Feb. 1. CLAIRE SHINNER | MONTANA KAIMIN

Lady Griz chase down best of Montana basketball recruits



TOP: University of Montana guard Sophia Stiles pulls the basketball away from Montana State defense as she makes her way to the basket.
BOTTOM: Jamie Pickens, No. 42, attempts to shoot a basket during the game against Montana State.
EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN



GRIFFEN SMITH

griffen.smith@umontana.edu

In March of 2015, nowsenior guard Taylor Goligoski won the Gatorade Montana basketball player of the year. The University of Montana women's basketball team has successfully recruited every winner since.

"We always want to try and keep the best Montana kids here at home if we can, and we take priority on that," said head coach Shannon Schweyen. "We feel like they are kids who have great work ethics."

Schweyen and the Lady Griz basketball focus recruiting in the state of Montana. Since its creation, 12 statewide Gatorade award winners landed at Lady Griz basketball. The last three winners, Goligoski, sophomore Sofia Stiles and freshman Jamie Pickens currently play on the team.

Gatorade first established the state by state award in 1985. Requirements to win the award are centered into athletic excellence, academic achievement and exemplary character.

Joel Carlson, a sports information officer at the University of Montana, added that the winner is usually the most qualified person who submits the award paperwork.

"There has to be someone to put in the work and submit all the different required materials to Gatorade," Carlson said.

Schweyen explained getting a Gatorade player of the year on the team takes a bit of intuition. She said that most of the time the award comes out too late to make a difference in the recruiting process.

"Typically, we have them signed prior to that unless they are named player of the year in sophomore or junior year. Most of the time these kids have committed when they're juniors," Schweyen said.

Goligoski is the only player on the roster to win the award her sophomore year, but she said Montana knew about her even earlier.

"Being so close, they have been looking at me since like middle school," Goligoski said. "So, I have been talking on and off with UM for a while. I guess since 8th grade."

Goligoski, from Hamilton, Montana, won the award her sophomore and senior years of high school.

The award comes with perks that differ year to year. All three current players received trophies, a school banner and custom water bottles. But, while Goligoski only got those basics, Pickens and Stiles also got backpacks.

Stiles, in particular, received, a duffel bag and Gatorade awarded her school of Malta High with a large amount of product. She prided herself on winning the award for the community of Malta.

"It's a little, small town," Stiles said. "The fact that my name could be out there in comparison to all these big cities, and I think I was the second ever from Malta to get it."

The most recent winner is Pickens, who won the award her junior and senior year committed to Montana before she won the title. She explained that it didn't affect her decision to come to UM.

"I wouldn't say it helped me, more so my teammates helping me get far in the [high-school] tournament and playing summer basketball to get exposure," Pickens said.

The 2020 Gatorade player of the year is set to be announced on March 6.

Lady Griz lose on the road to red hot MSU

JACK MARSHALL

jack.marshall@umontana.edu

In the first half of Montana's game against Montana State on Feb. 22, MSU couldn't miss, making eight 3-pointers against the Lady Griz. This strong shooting performance helped MSU win for the second time against UM this season, 92-78.

"We still want to build momentum going into the tournament, and this is just that first step," Montana State head coach Tricia Binford said after the game.

UM entered the game having won three of its last four games. Montana State had won its last 10 games and 14 of its 15 conference games.

Jamie Pickens made a few jump shots early in the first quarter to keep Montana within striking distance with a score of 12-7. Pickens finished the game with eight points and four rebounds.

By the end of the first quarter, MSU held a 23-14 lead with the help of four 3-pointers. MSU was able to get 47.4% of its shots to fall in the first quarter while UM only made 33.3% of its shot attempts.

Montana State made three more 3-pointers in the second quarter before UM could muster up its first 3-pointers of the game. MSU scored 10 unanswered points early in the second quarter, helping the team coast to a 46-31 halftime lead.

Madi Schoening led the Lady Griz in scoring by halftime with seven points. Schoening finished the game with 11 points and six rebounds.

UM made 50% of its shots in the third quarter while MSU only converted on 44.4% of its attempts. MSU still outscored the Lady Griz 25-23 in the third quarter, taking the lead.

Emma Stockholm hit a turnaround jump shot in the fourth quarter to help UM decrease MSU's lead to 85-62. The Griz outscored MSU in the fourth quarter, putting the score at 92-78 with MSU still in the lead. Stockholm led the Lady Griz in scoring with 16 points.

Despite UM's fourth-quarter comeback efforts, MSU still won with the final score at 92-78. MSU's 92 points were the most they have ever scored against UM.

MSU had five players who scored 15 or more points, while UM only had one player breach the 15 point mark.

The win helped MSU advance its record to 19-6 with a conference record of 15-1. UM's record dropped to 14-11 with a conference record of 9-7. MSU has won seven of its last eight match-ups with the Lady Griz.

The Bobcats also clinched a portion of the Big Sky regular season title with the win. Players and coaches cut down the nets as confetti rained down on the stands after the game.

UM's next game will be against Northern Arizona at home on Feb. 27. MSU's next match up will be against Sacramento State on Feb. 27.



University of Montana freshman Jamie Pickens looks before passing the ball during the Cat-Griz game at the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman, Montana on Feb. 22. The Lady Griz lost 78-92 to the Montana State Bobcats.
NONOKA MORI | MONTANA KAIMIN

Mystics and Sorcerers concert features 'The Hobbit' and 'Fantasia'

DANIEL DUENSING

daniel.duensing@umontana.edu

Tolkienesque preludes and pieces by Russian composers highlighted the Mystics and Sorcerers concert performed by the University of Montana Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Thursday evening at the Dennison Theatre, Feb. 22.

The concert hosted musical pieces from the movies "The Hobbit" and Disney's "Fantasia," among others. James Smart, University of Montana Director of Trumpets and Band, said the symphonies played recognizable songs at the concert.

"It's an exciting opportunity for the band world to be exposed to this music, it's not watered down at all, it's legitimate," Smart said.

Some of the pieces performed came from Russian composer Igor Stravinsky. The symphony performed songs from the late composer's ballet "The Firebird."

Pieces from German composer Carl Orff's cantata "Carmina Burana" were also performed. University of Montana music education student Jacob Logan sang z'Ego Sum Abbas" from the cantata.

"It's about this guy saying that he is the Abba," Logan said. "A self-proclamation about who he is, and anybody who comes into his tavern is going to leave sad and woeful."

The University of Montana school of music has 25 upcoming performances in March.



TOP: University of Montana student-pianist Heidi Martin reads over the concert schedule before she performs. Martin said, "a lot of the concerts we do are based on one or two pieces, but this concert is really based on its title."

LEFT: A musician plucks their harp during the concert's finale.

RIGHT: Marita Growing Thunder and other trombone players perform at the Mystics and Sorcerer's Concert held at the Dennison Theatre on Feb. 20. The concert was inspired by Russian folktales as well as 11th century songs.