

MONTANA KAIMIN

NEWS
WHAT'S THAT
THING ON THE
OVAL?

REVIEW
CYBERPUNK
2077
CONTINUES A
BAD TREND

SPORTS
BIG SKY
BASKETBALL
IS BACK

BEGINNING OF THE END

**UM STARTS ON-CAMPUS
COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**

**STORY BY GRIFFEN SMITH
PHOTOS BY SARAH MOSQUERA**

Volume 123
Issue No. 15,
January 13, 2021



Cover Photo
Sarah Masquera



EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Erin Sargent

BUSINESS MANAGER
Cassandra Williams

SPORTS EDITOR
Jack Marshall

NEWS EDITOR
Mazana Boerboom

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR
Alex Miller

FEATURES EDITOR
Addie Slanger

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR
Claire Shinner

DESIGN EDITOR
Griffen Smith

DIGITAL EDITOR/COPY CHIEF
Andrea Halland

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

NEWSROOM STAFF

NEWS REPORTERS
Jacob Owens
Mariah Thomas
Grace Carr
Allie Wagner

SPORTS REPORTERS
John Orzechowski

ARTS & CULTURE REPORTERS
Clarise Larson
Meghan Jonas
Haley Yarrowrough

MULTIMEDIA STAFF
Liam McCollum
Emma Smith
Matt Tryan
Zach Meyer
Antonio Ibarra Olivares
Sara Mosquera
Sam Shatsky
Lukas Prinos
Kennedy Delap

COPY EDITORS
Zandria DuPuis
Alicia McAlpine
Luke Nicholson

DESIGNERS
Isabella Musgrove
McKenna Johnson
Makayla O’Neil
Olivia Swant-Johnson

CARTOONIST
Cooper Malin

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
Christine Compton
Maura Lynch

ADVISERS
Geoff McGhee
Jason Begay

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Montana Kaimin



@montanakaimin



@MontanaKaimin

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

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



Looking for childcare?

Need a job while going to school and love to work with children?

ASUM Child Care Preschool can help



We provide care and education for children from 0-6 years old and **we hire students to work in the classrooms.**

Call (406) 243-2542 or visit umt.edu/childcare

KAIMIN COMIC



Shit didn’t end with 2020. It’s just starting to reach its tipping point now.

We wish we could say this semester is going to be different (read: better). We wish that when the clock struck midnight on New Year’s Eve, we all would have woken up from a “Groundhog Day”-level nightmare. Because that’s been the commentary all of last year, right? 2020 sucked. It so sucked. And we were all ready for it to be over. We were all ready to wake up back in normal life.

But we didn’t. We woke up to a virus that didn’t magic itself away, but in fact developed a strain even more contagious than the last. We woke up to our president—of the United States of America—inciting violence in a rally and on Twitter to the point of being banned across multiple social media platforms (even Pinterest, if you want to keep track).

We woke up to the collateral damage of a violent mob storming our nation’s Capitol (the first invasion of the building since 1814—let that sink in if it hasn’t already) that sent America’s leaders to secure locations, only to continue to have a debate about whether or not the results of a fair and free

election were fair and free. By our tally, Joe Biden has won the election five times at least.

And there was an underlying issue no one could ignore when rioters started climbing the walls of the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6: The treatment of that mob would have looked a lot different had the crowd been a different color.

That double-standard felt painfully evident watching a white mob walk through the Capitol, destroy property, steal from offices and the Senate floor and walk out escorted by police. The same can’t be said about the response to last summer’s Black Lives Matter protests. The same can’t be said about the response to Standing Rock. Just because we live in Montana, just because we live far away from D.C., we can’t pretend all of this isn’t affecting us, or that we are too far away to care. The debate over U.S. election results isn’t distant—Sen. Steve Daines was one of 13 senators to contest the Arizona election results (after returning to the Senate floor, Sen. Daines reversed his contest of the results of the

electoral college, stating his desire to “re-store confidence to our electoral process”).

The Capitol riots made their way here, in the form of protests at the Missoula Courthouse, while rioters in D.C. broke into congressional offices.

Of course we couldn’t avoid the spread of COVID-19, and we won’t avoid the long path ahead of us before we can even have the option to be vaccinated.

And we know we’re a student paper. We’ve been trying to decide how best to write about all of this and why it affects us and our readers directly.

And we’ve settled on this: Everyone keeps talking about “returning to normal” after a year we wish we could just forget. And that feels like it would be so much easier, wouldn’t it? It would be so much easier to just focus on our classes, study for our finals and try to graduate college and start our lives.

But the harder thing to do would be to look at what that “old normal” really truly looked like, and decide if it’s time to reject it.

Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?
email us your opinions at
editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

Copyright 2021 by The Puzzle Syndicate

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

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

Table of Contents

Briefs and Blotter Page 4

Horoscope Page 5

News Page 6 & 7

COVID-19 Vaccine Page 8

Reviews Page 12 & 13

Griz Basketball Page 14 & 15

Gallery Page 16

Briefs: Mask order, food pantry and swastikas

MAZANA BOERBOOM
mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

Gianforte plans to end mask mandate

Gov. Greg Gianforte was sworn in as Montana's newest governor Jan. 4, making him the first Republican to hold the seat in 16 years. He addressed the COVID-19 vaccine situation in the state, saying he plans for the next round of vaccines to go to people over the age of 70 and to people ages 16-69 with underlying health conditions, which accounts for nearly a quarter of Montana's population, according to Missoulian reporting. He also said he planned to end the mask mandate issued by former governor Steve Bullock in July "in a matter of weeks, not months," once the most vulnerable are vaccinated. Missoula County health officials anticipates upholding the mandate within the county, unless the Missoula City-County Health Department deems otherwise.

Peace sign vandalized with swastika

Over the weekend the peace sign that sits on Waterworks Hill was vandalized, as a swastika symbol was left at the peace sign. The Jeanette Rankin Peace Center, which owns the land, was notified of the Nazi symbol by the parks department, and volunteers from the center spent the afternoon dismantling the swastika. On its Facebook page the center captioned a photo of the volunteers, saying, "An amazing group of staff and volunteers spend a beautiful afternoon of love and laughter giving our peace sign a refresh. Peace. Love. Missoula."



COVID-19 situation in Missoula

As of Monday, Missoula County had over 400 active COVID-19 cases and 41 new cases. The county has had nearly 7,000 cases since the virus started to spread. The state was at just

under 5,000 active cases and 87,000 cumulative cases. There was a spike in new cases over the weekend, after a significant drop in cases through December. Red Lion Inn in Missoula is offering up 10 rooms for non-congregate shelter for those categorized as high risk, according to the Missoulian. The housing isn't for symptomatic people or those who tested positive, but for those who are high risk and living in situations which make it difficult to socially distance themselves. The Missoulian also reported that Missoula's Mayor John Engen tested positive for the virus on New Year's Day. During a City Council meeting, the mayor

said he felt as if he'd been hit by a truck, but acknowledged he had it better than most.

UM events on new Griz Hub website

The University of Montana launched a new website this semester called Griz Hub where campus events will be posted. Students can

search through campus organizations and their upcoming events and can register for those events on the website. UM has posted several events on Griz Hub to kick off the semester and to encourage students to interact in COVID-safe ways. Events include "Take a Break Tuesdays" from 12-1 p.m. on the Oval all semester where students can get warm drinks and treats and the free virtual planetarium show on Friday from 5-6 p.m.

UM Food Pantry changes hours

The University of Montana Food Pantry, located on the first floor of the University Center near the ASUM offices, has changed its hours for the semester. The pantry is open from 12-5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The pantry is open to all students, faculty, staff and community members and aims to combat food insecurity.

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22					23			
24					25		26			27				
			28			29				30			31	32
33	34	35			36				37			38		
39				40				41			42			
43				44			45				46			
47			48			49				50				
		51			52			53			54	55	56	
57	58				59		60		61					
62					63			64			65			
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

ACROSS Copyright 2021 by The Puzzle Syndicate

- 1 Delhi wrap

5 Chocolate bean

10 Original sinner

14 Dressed

15 Put on _____ (pretend)

16 Kelly of morning TV

17 Amble

18 Raquel of filmdom

19 At any time

20 Coming up

22 Bit of cunning

23 Run out of gas

24 Croquet striker

26 Certain deliveries

28 Footnote word

30 Indian condiment

33 Back talk

36 Nissan crossover

38 Hospital unit

39 Take a dive

41 Ready for the junkyard

43 Belief

44 William Tell, e.g.

46 Microscope part

47 Wanderer

49 Inexpensive lodging

51 Writers' reps

53 Took advice

57 Poker stake

59 Kind of surgery

61 Swedish currency

62 Cut of meat

63 Kidney-related

65 Stuff to the gills

66 Well-behaved

67 Pugilist Pacquiao

68 Hosiery hue

69 Writer Quindlen
- 70 Investment

71 Indian tree
- 31 Many a Bieber fan

32 Uses an abacus

33 Washer cycle

34 Moreover

35 Lawyer's last words

37 Civil War side

40 Fictitious, with "up"

42 Dust or pollen, e.g.

45 Shout of praise

48 To-do list

50 Comics cry

52 Societal standards

54 Gabbana's partner

55 Accustom: Var.

56 Piece of information

57 Sea lettuce

58 "High" time

60 Tall and lean

64 Caustic stuff

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

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

Blotter: Borrowed cars, Best Buy and posters

GRACE CARR
grace.carr@umontana.edu

The University of Montana's vacant campus was mostly quiet the first week of 2021. Most of the calls that were made to UMPD involved transportation requests, verbal disturbances, a welfare check and a dog without a leash.

12/31/20 JUST BORROWING?

Officers responded to Pardee Court late at night when a verbal argument turned into a vehicular dilemma. There was a commotion between two people when one individual took the other person's car without permission to find a third person who had been involved in the argument. The car was returned a short time later and labeled as "use without authorization." No citations were made and all parties were warned and released.

1/02/21 BEST BUY, NOT BEST PURCHASE

A resident of Yreka Court shared personal and bank account information with someone they'd been interacting with online for just under two weeks and whom they believed to be valid. The online stranger said they were associated with

Best Buy and requested \$2,000 in Best Buy gift cards from the resident, though it's unknown what was being offered in return. The victim sent the cards and pin codes to a drop location in Texas. "We get these all the time," UMPD Lt. Brad Giffin said. "If what they're offering is too good to be true, it's probably not true." Drop houses and hidden IP addresses make this case unsolvable

1/06/21 GOODBYE STEVE'S POSTER

Officers responded to a complaint of an offensive poster taped to a door in Main Hall. The poster portrayed an individual's opinion about Montana Sen. Steve Daines based on his political history, but contained no threatening language or hateful biases. The poster was taken as evidence as a precaution.

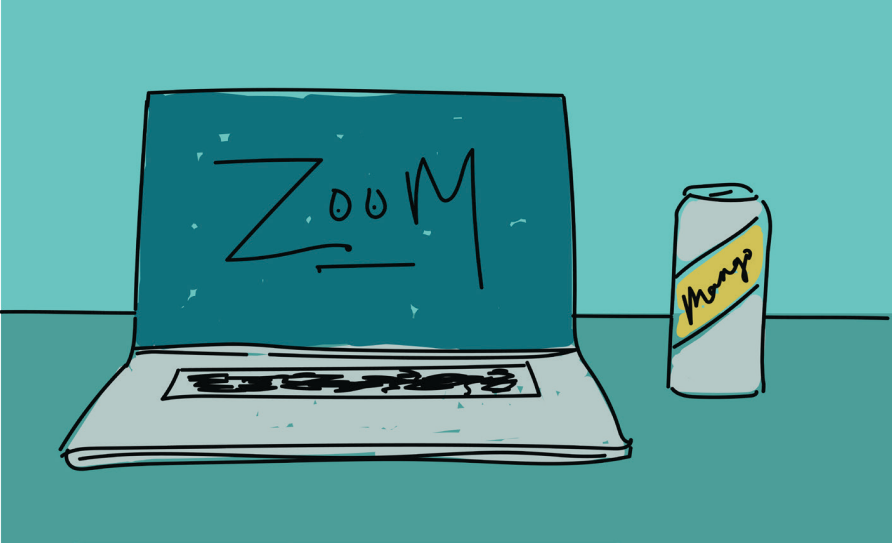
1/06/21 LIBRARY TRESPASSING

UMPD officers removed a person from campus who was trespassing inside the Mansfield Library. The individual has been cited for trespassing in the library before and was charged again.



RENE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

Horoscope: Back 2 Zoom school



ALEX MILLER
michael6.miller@umontana.edu

We're back at it again peeps! It may be a new year, but ain't nothing new with people and their relation to the star signs. And guess what, UM hasn't changed much either. Yeah we got a cool ice rink now, but we all still live on Zoom and drink White Claws at 9 a.m. during syllabus week. So let's kick this show off with Capricorn szn baybeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23-JAN. 19): Ayo what up sea goats? Allegedly, you all know how to navigate life quite swimmingly. So this first week should be a breeze, right? You're all registered, got that good WiFi and ready to crush the emotional stresses of distance learning.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): Aquarius, what will we do with you? You're a rebel at heart, but sometimes you gotta stick to the system. So that means if you signed up for an 8 a.m. class as a rebellious gesture, perhaps it would behoove you to actually show up.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): You're one emotional fish, Pisces. It's okay to feel, but maybe not all the time to an overwhelming point. So don't stress about classes right now. Kick up those feet, make the plunge to get that Peacock account so you can rewatch "The Office" (again) and just take care of yourself.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): Ambition is never a bad thing, Aries. But where you place ambition and head-strong nature matters most. So maybe don't get the drive to create the next viral TikTok and instead pay attention to your stats class.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): Well, looks like it's time to hop out of bed and get to work, Taurus. You can take your time getting to class, though—you're probably

Zooming in anyway. So bust out the PJs and click that camera off. Grab life by the horns, right?

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Wait, how many credits are you taking? You don't have to put yourself through such a ridiculous schedule, Gemini. Why not join the rest of us peons and take 12 credits and relax. Or spend two hours a day writing a brand new daily schedule, whatever makes you happy.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): Cancer, you're like an accidentally nosy crab. You can read a room like no one else. Whenever you walk into any classroom you instantly feel the big case of the fuck-its that everyone has. Does that apply to digital classrooms as well?

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Lights, camera, Leo baby. Online classes? No, no that won't work. How will people cherish your existence through a screen that they aren't paying attention to?

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 22): Practice certainly does make perfect, Virgo. But at what cost does perfection come? Definitely sleep, that's for sure. So put the ruler that you're using to perfectly line up your notes down and take a nap.

LIBRA (SEP. 23-OCT. 22): Life really is all about balance. But striking that balance is hard, isn't it, Libra? Like balancing your white wine intake with the proper amount of chips and salsa while reading your way-too-expensive textbook that you probably don't need.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): Just try not to kill anyone this semester, okay?

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 22): You're always on the quest for the Holy Grail of knowledge, Sag. Kudos to you for that. However, is that 100-level philosophy class really indicative of that dogged pursuit?

UM hopes Oval ice rink creates community despite pandemic

JACOB OWENS
jacob.owens@umontana.edu

Once the weather cools down students will be able to ice skate on the Oval just as University of Montana alumni once did, after UM installed an ice rink on campus for the first time since the middle of the 20th century.

Facilities Services employees installed the 60-by-85 foot portable rink on Friday, which is part of a larger effort by the University to increase student engagement this semester.

“There’s still that need to engage students,” Adrienne Smith, director of the University Center and James Todd Center, said. “Part of the college experience is to have that engagement outside of the classroom, but how do you do that when we’re not allowed to?”

Smith said the UC used programming funds and sponsor help to purchase the ice rink, which can be used each winter.

She said the hope was for the rink to open Monday as the semester began, but unusually mild winter temperatures have prevented the rink from completely freezing over. The rink will be fenced in until it freezes over and is ready for use.

Vice Provost for Student Success Sarah Swager said the rink takes up a quadrant of the Oval and has fire pits around it where small groups of two or three students can gather.

Smith said the eight propane-fueled fire pits are numbered and on a schedule of which ones are used. She added the rink will be open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week with floodlights and hanging market lights for skating at night.

This is not the first time an ice rink has been installed at the University. Hannah Soukup, the oral history curator of the University of Montana’s Archives and Special Collections, has read older articles of the Montana Kaimin from the 1950s that discuss an ice rink located where the Grizzly Pool sits today.

The rink closed in the late 1950s or early 1960s because it didn’t get enough student use. A student-led push in the 1960s to reopen the rink failed.

Soukup said ice skating rinks were first mentioned in the Kaimin in 1900, when students created makeshift rinks.

“We’ve lost a lot of that, a lot of these things students used to do on campus when it



A new ice rink sits on the Oval on Jan. 8, 2021. Facilities services employees installed the rink to help prepare for a "Winter Welcome" to kick off spring semester. Once it freezes over, students can use the rink seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. SARAH MOSQUERA | MONTANA KAIMIN

was smaller and there were fewer of them,” Soukup said.

Soukup became familiar with the history of ice skating on campus through her work with the archives.

Smith, the UC director, said she’s had people reach out to her who skated on the Oval as kids. She said these memories are important because they connect UM and the larger community.

Use of the rink will initially be limited to the UM community, but will soon be available to the entire Missoula community. Smith said she hopes the rink helps strengthen the connection between the University and Missoula.

“Creating those memories are really important for people to have a connection to the University, whether you’re part of the com-

munity or you’re a student,” Smith said.

Once the ice skating rink opens rules will be posted around the rink. One of the rules is that ice skates are required to get on the ice. Smith said the UC was planning to provide skates for students who didn’t have any, but due to the limited number of skates the UC can get from the local hockey and lacrosse store, they likely won’t have skates available for students until next season.

The rink also has rules to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These rules limit the rink capacity to 25 people and require skaters to fill out an online form accepting the “risks and responsibilities” before skating to help with potential contact tracing. The online form is accessible via a QR code on the rules poster.

Anyone can reserve a spot on the new Griz Hub website. Student groups can reserve

spots by contacting ASUM Business Manager Ethan Hanley, and other non-student groups can reserve a spot by contacting Smith.

Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms is not allowed on the ice, but there is no written rule requiring students to wear a mask. Smith said skaters will be asked to wear one, though.

Swager said she hopes the rink provides a feeling of camaraderie and joy that can be hard for students to feel right now.

“I hope it adds a sense of joy and sort of spirit of looking forward with optimism and students having a chance to spend time with each other in ways that are safe but also really fun,” Swager said.

Students tend to UC Gardens after ‘plant lady’s’ retirement

JACOB OWENS
jacob.owens@umontana.edu

Kelly Chadwick, the University Center Gardens’ long beloved “plant lady,” retired in December after overseeing the UC’s familiar greenery for over 37 years.

Chadwick’s retirement leaves her former student employees to care for the plants, which have become a staple of the UC, until a new manager is hired.

“It’s a good feeling knowing that we’re working hard to take care of something people appreciate,” Jacob Tutty, a UC Gardens employee for the past year and a half, said.

Tutty is one of three student employees caring for the plants. The other two employees are Cora Rivers and Maggie Gammons.

Rivers, who’s worked in the UC Gardens for only a semester, said there’s a lot of responsibility in caring for all the plants, many of which Chadwick planted herself, but that the three of them have been able to keep up with the work.

She said her co-workers’ years of experience have helped their work go smoothly even without Chadwick. Their work includes, “Just keeping the plants happy, watering and spraying for pests, cleaning out dead leaves, making things

look pretty.”

Tutty said caring for the UC Gardens has its own unique challenges now, including more long-term planning, but he added Chadwick left them with a good “roadmap” for what to work on.

Larry McElravy, the University Center’s associate director for Building Services, said he could not speak on the current hiring process for the new manager due to the privacy rights of personnel. However, he said the student employees could come to him with any issues they had until a new manager is hired.

McElravy said a retirement video created for Chadwick last year featured many past employees she’d had an impact on.

“Over the years she’s meant a lot to a lot of the employees she’s had, so not only did she take care of the plants, but she really made an impact on the student employees,” McElravy said.

He said any future renovations to the UC will ensure the plants remain a focal point. He said six years ago there was an unfulfilled plan for a roughly \$60 million renovation for the UC, but there are no plans for renovation in the short term unless the UC received more funding or

donations.

McElravy said at the moment the UC Gardens budget should remain steady, but may decrease slightly, prioritizing funding necessary to care for the plants.

Adrienne Smith, the director of the University Center and James Todd Center, said a tree dedication for Chadwick is planned for around Earth Day or Arbor Day this spring.

Chadwick’s retirement from the University does not mark the end of her time with UM’s plants. She plans to continue volunteering with the Montana Native Botanic Garden and organizing the history and information of the State of Montana Arboretum Committee.

Chadwick said she felt fortunate to have worked for the UC Gardens.

“I don’t think many people have that opportunity in their lives to have a job they really like and look forward to going to,” Chadwick said.



University Center Gardens manager Kelly Chadwick after watering plants in the UC Commons in February 2019. ELI IMADALI | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM offers asymptomatic tests to on-campus students

MAZANA BOERBOOM
mazana.boerboom@umontana.edu

The University of Montana is providing on-campus students with COVID-19 testing designed for asymptomatic detection, specifically for students returning from travel during break, according to a UM News release.

Paula Short, UM’s associate vice president of Strategic Communications, said the hope is to be alerted to more positive COVID-19 cases earlier and prevent clusters or outbreaks of the virus in the residence halls.

“It’s very possible to be walking around and feeling fine and in fact actually have a COVID-19 infection,” Short said. “So, it’s a tool for awareness for students.”

She said priority is being given to students living on campus who have

traveled from out of state, then to students living on campus who haven’t left Montana and lastly to off-campus students who are taking in-person classes. Though, with limited testing availability, only students on campus will have access to the testing for the first two weeks of classes.

Testing is still free through Curry Health Center to all students who are feeling symptoms of COVID-19.

Short explained that on-campus students are being given priority because they live in close quarters with other students, sharing rooms, bathrooms and showers. An email should have been sent to all students living on campus with instructions on how to sign up on the new Griz Hub portal for testing in the University Center.

Short said that though testing is

completely voluntary, she hopes to have a high number of students who opt in. She said many people who have had the traditional COVID-19 test have said the experience was uncomfortable, as the swab goes far up the nose.

“I wouldn’t want that to be a deterrent. Some people might—knowing how uncomfortable the traditional symptomatic COVID test is—they might not opt in,” Short said, adding that the asymptomatic test is self-administered and less intrusive than the traditional test. “It’s really quite easy. It takes a matter of minutes.”

The testing is being done using a supply of BinaxNOW Ag cards, which provide results within 15-30 minutes. Short compared them to pregnancy tests, as positive results will show up as two pinkish lines on the card.

JOURNALISM JOB
Report for America

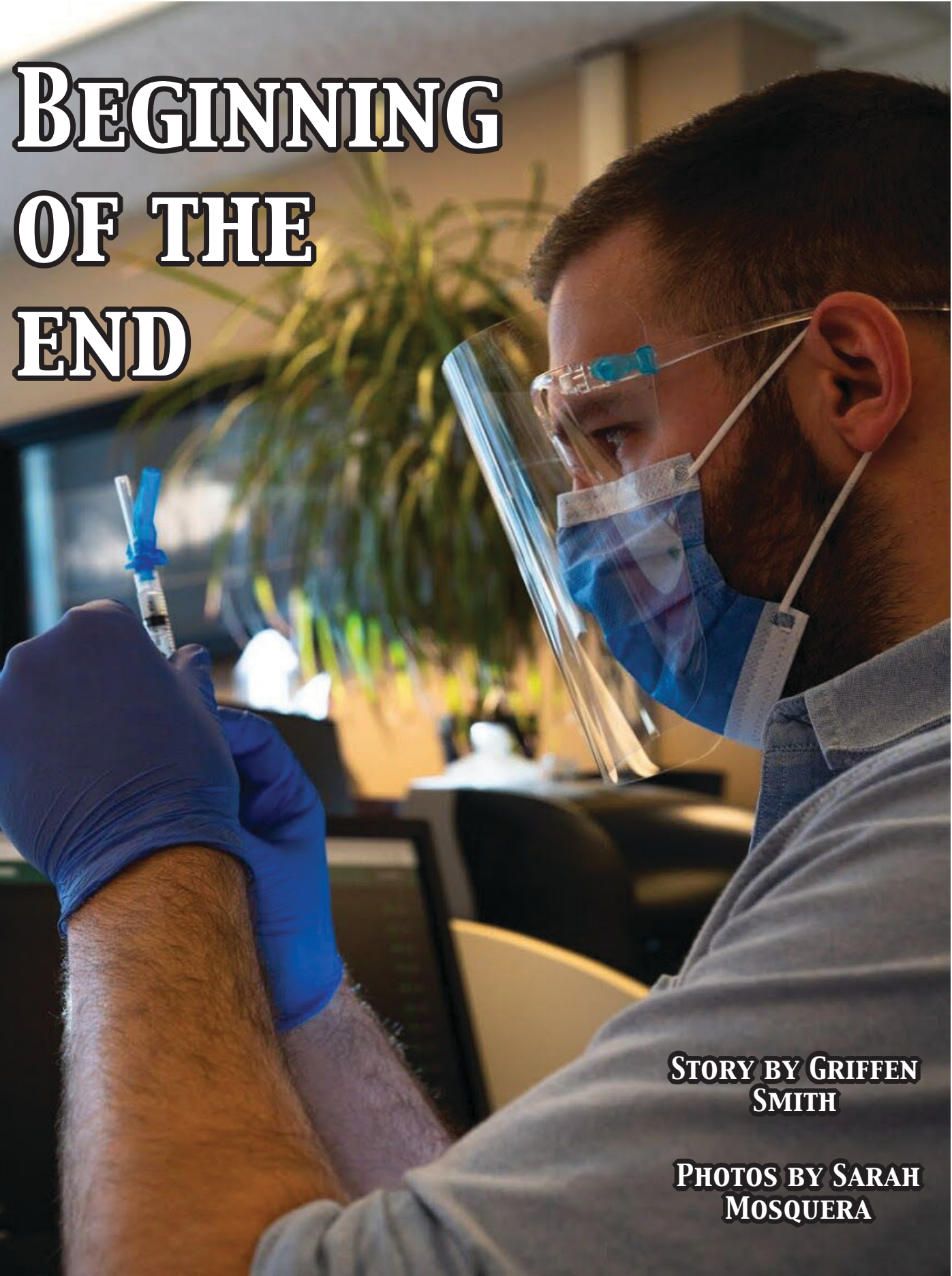


Report for America is a nonprofit program that sends early-career journalists to report on under-covered topics and communities around the U.S. Nearly 100 new hires will begin work this summer. Applications due Jan. 31.

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



BEGINNING OF THE END



STORY BY GRIFFEN
SMITH

PHOTOS BY SARAH
MOSQUERA

UM STARTS ON-CAMPUS COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Dr. Kenneth Chatriad took a break from his work to wipe down the 12 smooth, light blue plastic chairs spaced out in a Curry Health Center hallway. Chatriad, the center’s pharmacy manager, walked through his newly constructed immunization center. Though it was hard to tell under his mask and face shield, he was probably smiling.

“It is an exciting day today, finally,” Chatriad said as he brought his attention back to new faces coming down the corridor. They were frontline healthcare workers, including Curry doctors and test takers at the University of Montana, and they quietly picked a socially-distanced seat near the pharmacy center corridor.

A table stacked with Gatorades and a candy bowl in the corner also held a vaccine fact sheet and health screening form on the table’s edge. Patients brightened up as they read through the two.

“What did I have for breakfast?” read Chris Peterson. “I had two almonds, a mandarin and an apple.”

“Oh, and a handful of gummy bears.” Laughter echoed down the skinny hallway. It felt more like a living room than a vaccination station.

“We know each other well, in fact we all work together,” said Kimberly Stanek, an adjunct professor at UM. Stanek and the others in the hall were part of the UM Genomics core, and their current job involves handling COVID-19 samples for tests around Missoula.

The people there were some of the first members of UM to receive their COVID-19 vaccination at Curry Health Center. And, for Curry and UM, the vaccine could not have come sooner, after health officials faced months of constant operation readjusting to fight the coronavirus, which has already infected roughly 500 UM students, faculty and staff.

For the last 10 months, Curry medical staff dealt with the immense pressure of the pandemic—working to continue normal services and manage the pandemic’s damage at the same time. And now, though it will likely still be months until UM students have a chance at immunization, Wednesday marked a moment of hope for members of the University’s healthcare community: A vaccine, self-delivered by UM’s own clinic.

In December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved two COVID-19 vaccines, from pharmaceutical companies Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. The vaccines are the first widespread version of an RNA sequenced vaccine, which delivers a blueprint of the coronavirus-spiked pro-



Curry Health Center Pharmacy Manager Kenneth Chatriad administers the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Julia Schechter, a UM student who works at Griz Health, on Jan. 6, 2021.

teins and creates an immune response.

Tens of thousands of people participated nationwide in clinical trials for vaccine approvals. A group of 100 Montanans were involved in these trials, including Montana Sen. Steve Daines and his wife, Cindy.

Since the approval of the vaccines, the Montana Department of Health and Human Services sent 36,000 vaccines to hospitals, health departments and pharmacies like Curry by Jan. 7. The statewide department also expected to receive more than 41,000 more doses in the coming weeks.

Jeffery Adams, the director of the Curry Health center, said 100 doses reached campus on Dec. 5. The University stored the vaccine, from Moderna, in the center’s advanced freezer, though the doses did not need to be as cold as the Pfizer version.

Adams said it will be months before the student population will have general access to a vaccine, as Montana is still focusing on vaccinating its healthcare workers. However, he hoped individuals with underlying health conditions, whether students or staff, would be able to get a dose.

“We expect the health care workers here will be among that first batch that’s vaccinated,” Adams said. “UM will get a campus-wide vaccination plan, but right now, it’s in the planning stages. We’re meeting, we’re talking about how to do the logistics of it.”

The state of Montana is in phase 1A of a four-part implementation plan. The first section, health care workers and senior living residents, is expected to be completed by Feb. 26, according to a Jan. 5 information sheet from DPHHS.

Phase 1B includes all people age 70 or over, Native Americans and people of col-

or with heightened virus risks, and people over 16 with high risk medical conditions like cancer or heart conditions. Doctors can recommend people they consider high risk for COVID-19 complications to get expedited vaccines as well.

At Phase 1C, frontline essential workers, all people 60 years or older, and people in prisons and congregate care facilities are eligible. This section includes people with less severe health risks like asthma or high blood pressure.

Phase 2 is all Montanans over the age of 16. Outside of phase 1A, though, there is no definitive timeline for these groups to begin receiving immunization. There is no specific designation for students or those living in congregate facilities like residence halls.

Newly-elected Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte edited Montana’s immunization plan Jan. 5 to prioritize people with compromised immune systems. High-risk students will have access to the vaccine when section 1B begins, though that may still be months out.

Curry’s first day of vaccinations featured internal members of UM medical staff across campus. Dawn Camara-Clark, a worker at Curry’s insurance desk, walked just 20 feet from her normal desk to her vaccine.

“This felt awesome, especially to get it in the building. You know when someone gets a flu shot? That’s it, that’s how it felt,” Camara-Clark said.

Camara-Clark has worked in Curry since 2000, first at the front desk, and then behind the scenes working on student insurance. She greeted her vaccinator, pharmacy manager Chatriad, by first name.

“I trust Ken, I get my prescription from him,” Camara-Clark said. “I’ve been here

State Of Montana Vaccine Distribution plan

Phase 1

1A

Frontline
Healthcare
Workers

People in
Assisted Living
Facilities

1B

70 or older

People with high
risk medical
conditions

At risk Native or
People of Color

1C

Frontline
Essential
Workers

People in prisons
or congregate
care

People with
medical
conditions not
listed in 1B

60 or older

Phase 2

Anyone over 16

GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

longer than he has, but he’s always been great at his job.”

Chatriad graduated from the UM School of Pharmacy in 2006, and returned to Missoula one year later to manage Curry’s pharmacy center, where many UM stu-

dents get their prescription medicine.

He not only is responsible for tracking the inventory of his pharmacy, but also handling billing and his own human resources. His goal is to get as many of his colleagues vaccinated as soon as possible.



University of Montana pharmacy student Nate Bennet administers Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine to Dawn Camara-Clark on Wednesday at the Curry Health Center. Camara-Clark has worked as a student insurance advocate at Curry since 2000.

"Right now we have that first 100 doses batch, but we are still requesting more shipments of the vaccine," Chatriad said. "We will have 400 more [vaccines] soon, and this is just the beginning."

Alongside Chatriad were his technician interns, UM students enrolled at the School of Pharmacy. The school of pharmacy includes graduates and undergraduates alike, some of whom Adams said will be an important vaccination workforce.

"The pharmacy program has 225 people. That can be almost an army of vaccinators," Dr. Adams said. "They've gotten pretty good at the logistics of mass vaccination, especially moving mass vac-

cination."

Adams listed vaccination booths in the University Center or in tents in the parking lots next to the Adams Center and Law Building. Curry plans to keep its vaccination plan exclusively for members of the UM community, but more parts of Missoula could get immunized by the University based on testing needs.

Cindy Farr, COVID-19 Incident Commander at the Missoula City County Health Department, explained that all vaccine providers in the county meet once a week as a coalition to distribute leftover doses.

"What we are doing is trying to say,

'Okay, who's done vaccinating their own people, and who still has vaccines leftover that they can maybe reach out to a different provider?'" Farr said. "We're spreading the love a little bit so that we can get people vaccinated as quickly as possible."

So far, the vaccine distribution efforts are conducted by medical centers like Missoula's Providence St. Patrick Hospital and Curry Health Center, Farr said. She added public pharmacies like Walgreens and CVS will get their first shipments of doses at the end of January, focusing on residents in long-term senior living centers.

In the long term, Chatriad and Adams want to expand from the UM communi-

ty to the Missoula and rural Western Montana areas. Adams said he wants the center to be giving back to people who support public institutions.

"Let's say we picked up the upper Blackfoot, one of our pharmacy teams could travel there [and] vaccinate those people," Adams said. "It's the mission of UM to want to be part of a community effort to protect people, and to use the skills that we get here at UM to help the general community."

Chatriad took another sweep through the hallway as he monitored his patients for 15 minutes for any side effects. Most of his patients felt completely fine, save



Curry Health Center Pharmacy Manager Kenneth Chatriad stands for a portrait in Curry Health Center on Jan. 6, 2021.

for some minor symptoms like a sore arm or fatigue.

Most of those vaccinated grabbed candy or drinks from the table in the corner, taking Chatriad's advice that the glucose from the sweets would help recover from the shot.

Julia Schechter, a UM student who works at Griz Health, walked into the hallway about half an hour into the vaccination effort, and more people began to occupy seats. She immediately picked up a conversation with her coworker, who arrived 10 minutes earlier to get the vaccine. The two students took it with no hesitation.

"I feel excited and grateful to get this so early, and in such a familiar place," Schechter said. "For the last few months I have been working in Curry's lab testing COVID samples."

Griz Health and other lab workers in Curry had to handle thousands of COVID-19 tests over the last semester. Griz Health staff also work as contact tracers, conduct symptom checks on campus and sponsor informational booths

At the peak of UM's COVID-19 outbreak in early October, there were over 100 active UM cases. Some reports from Curry estimated positivity rates for tests reached 20%, higher than the 5% threshold for uncontrolled spread as defined by the World Health Organization.

As of Jan 11, there were 14 active COVID-19 cases tied to UM and 356 active cases in Missoula County, down from a high of 1,200 countywide cases in late November. The drop of active cases, Farr said, could be due to people avoiding testing in order to attend holiday events.

"The testing numbers were down because nobody wanted to get tested and be told that they couldn't participate in whatever holiday activities that they had planned," Farr said. "Now that everybody's kind of back in the swing, I think that we are starting to see the uptick."

As spring semester approached, Curry braced for students' return to campus. Adams said it had been smooth over the break, with his team seeing positivity rates lower than 6% and going days without any new positive cases.

However, Adams is careful to not be overly optimistic. Last fall, UM saw a steep and sudden increase in cases as the semester progressed, from less than 10 cases total in August to dozens of new positives each week of class.

"We all expect another wave is coming, because when the students travel, and they intermingle, our testing volume is going to have to increase," Adams said. "We're going to say that we can test all the symptomatic students on campus."

One advantage UM and Missoula boasts is an on-campus COVID-19 lab, partnered with Montana's State Public Health Lab, where tests can be sent and processed directly, instead of going through the state lab in Helena. Adams said the more streamlined system will help the center run more tests, and outsource to the public health lab in case there are more than 80 tests in a day, which is Curry's maximum.

UM spokeswoman Paula Short said the University took steps to mitigate another wave of the virus as students return from around the country for class by sending postcards to students after Christmas with

the message to limit social circles and gatherings.

"One of our concerns is that students may be going to UM from places both in and outside of Montana, where masking is not as prevalent," Short said. "We really want to encourage them to be really practicing those same mitigations that they'll need when they get to campus."

A new aspect to UM's COVID-19 mitigation plan is a surveillance testing operation, which gives tests to specific communities of asymptomatic people, for students returning to residence halls. On-campus residents can get a guided self-test the first week of class at the University Center.

The surveillance testing is a part of the larger Montana University System plan, which includes other large campuses like Montana State University and Montana Tech. UM has not done surveillance testing since September. As Short explained, supplies had not been sufficient enough to divert from symptomatic testing.

"Our ability to do asymptomatic or surveillance testing has always been a matter of the availability of those testing resources," Short said. "Should those become more widely available we certainly could look at another offering of that voluntary asymptomatic testing."

Short said there was not significant evidence that classrooms and other academic spaces were spreading places for the virus, as those spaces had strict social distancing and mask requirements. She added that 78% of the spring semester classes are scheduled to be held either in-person or in a hybrid model.

At Curry, where medical staff have spent months juggling students' usual medical needs and the unique challenges of a pandemic, the vaccine marks the beginning of much-needed relief.

While the future remains uncertain, for Adams, it's about sticking to the mission statements. For a University-based clinic, it's always been about providing for students, since its creation in 1956.

"As Doc Curry used to say: The students are our bosses. They should dictate what we provide for them," Adams said. "I want students to know about us, I want students to use us, I want students to trust us."

"A big focus of mine is getting us back to a regular way of doing business ... to enjoy a campus experience that is not completely hijacked by COVID-19 concerns," Adams said. "Even if we're still in a pandemic, we can start to allow a little bit more movement in our community without worrying about transmission."

‘WW84?’ more like ‘uh oh, no more’

ALEX MILLER
michael6.miller@umontana.edu

Somehow streaming services, like HBO Max, have become the one thing they sought to replace: Cable packages. Pay-per-view movies evolved into bundled options, just like “Wonder Woman 1984.” As the first major Warner Bros. film to arrive on the small screen, Diana Prince’s second outing isn’t worth a monthly charge.

The latest entry into the DC Universe’s film catalog sees director Patty Jenkins return at the helm, along with Gal Gadot as the titular heroine. Chris Pine also returns as Diana Prince’s long dead love interest, Steve Trevor (it’s like a “Ghost” scenario, but less weird and with more Pop-Tarts.)

The first “Wonder Woman,” set in the midst of World War I, was a surprisingly great film. Gadot introduced a version of the character with depth, strength and passion. The only thing that “WW84” shares with its predecessor is a brand name.

Jenkins didn’t write the story for the first movie, but did for the sequel. The plot kicks off centering around a young Wonder Woman’s first interaction with the truth (which is ironic

considering the truth has become political), and that the truth is the highest law of the land. Then it takes all of that badass character development from the first movie and kneecaps it for a moping Prince, staring at a passing plane wishing Trevor were still alive.

Then there’s this magical stone that totally grants any wish possible, but at a cost. It’s something along the lines of “The Monkey’s Paw,” or more accurately, equivalent exchange. Each wish comes at the cost of something of equal value.

Pedro Pascal of “Game of Thrones,” “Narcos” and “The Mandalorian” fame plays shift con man Max Lord, who sells shares of his crowdfunded oil company with the promise of making anyone’s wish come true. He is the villain of course, using the stone’s ability for his personal gain. But Pascal also gives the strongest performance. The least truthful person in the movie is actually the best thing in the story.

Enter Kristen Wiig. Guess what, she plays a goofy character with a black hole for confidence who idolizes Prince, a woman she just met and never knew existed until 10 minutes into the movie. That’s about all the character development she gets, until she turns into a poorly CGI’d cheetah-person unwilling to “see the

truth.” And that is the main schtick of this movie: The truth is hard to swallow, but more important than the wishful reality these characters hope to inhabit. Unfortunately, the film creates so many hollow plot points and character beats (like Wiig’s transformation into an evildoer) that the truth doesn’t matter again until the second-to-last scene.

The 1980s aesthetic really doesn’t seem to matter too much in the film. Sure, there are ridiculous neon clothes and fanny packs, but that’s about all there is to show this movie is set in a decade of excess. The fanny pack is actually Trevor’s defining character trait (an empty, useless front-facing pouch), outside of his being a foil to Prince realizing what “the truth” is.

Oddly enough, there is not a single song in the film from an artist of that decade. Instead Hans Zimmer, the film’s composer, did what Zimmer always does: Make a great score and move to the next job.

It is a bummer that this movie was not better. The hype machine surrounding the film made it seem like it was going to save the world and the film industry, but the truth is “WW84” stumbled on the momentum created by a great first entry into the story.



CONTRIBUTED

You’re going to want LICE

ALEX MILLER
michael6.miller@umontana.edu

Music never really needs a rhyme or reason to be made. Sure, you can release two albums in a year to show that you’ve evolved (*cough* Taylor Swift *cough*), but it kind of just feels like a marketing ploy. Or a crazy band from the UK can come out of nowhere with a concept album that blows your socks off.

LICE, not the itchy one that digs hair and scalps, have burst into 2021 with a weird, beautiful and absolute ripper of a debut album, “WASTELAND: What Ails Our People.” The songs inhabit a strange, Kurt Vonnegutt-flavored landscape filled with hookers, shape-shifters and tricksters. The young four-piece is made up of self-described satirists, and while the lyrics can be tongue-in-cheek, the music is serious business.

“Conveyor” opens the album with a strange, rolling sound that grows in speed and loudness as the guitars enter like galloping behemoths. That rolling sound is actually an instrument (or

something like that) that the band created. It’s a big old box with a crankshaft and a snare drum on the end. The guitars continue their driving pace, while vocalist Alastair Shuttleworth performs melodic gymnastics.

To be fair, Shuttleworth’s vocal style might not be for everyone. It goes from squawking like a belligerent bird, to deep restraint. But the true fun is in how weird he gets with each line.

From this point onward, the band shows every possible influence it has, tossing them into a blender to make a deliciously twisted musical smoothie. The second track “Imposter” is like the Arctic Monkeys doing a cover of the Arctic Monkeys, but better. Bands like Mr. Bungle, Queens of the Stone Age, IDLES, Black MIDI and the Talking Heads are all alive on this LP.

“R.D.C.,” which was released as the lead single and is certainly a standout on the record, opens with a Tool-esque bassline and then explodes with frantic energy, never quite slowing down, but not going so fast that the band trips on their own momentum. The drums are cavernous and come across like pounding foot-

steps on hard-packed earth. The guitars soar and nosedive with jagged, reckless abandon, creating an atmosphere of terror and wonder.

“Serata,” another standout, is a strong departure from the power and explosiveness of the first half of the album. The guitars slowly march along in a gentle, arpeggiated dirge while Shuttleworth gives his best vocal performance, reaching down deep into his range to help create a spooky atmosphere.

LICE flexes its creative muscles across 11 tracks. Each song feels like a unique piece of a larger puzzle. But, despite fitting into something much larger, they can all be enjoyed separately. “Persuader” doesn’t sound like the same band. The song is mellow, with hushed vocals that remind the ear of early Modest Mouse. And even with the influences of so many bands oozing from this album’s dirt-covered pores, it never feels like it’s ripping off anyone.

“WASTELAND” is a grimy, dirty record that sounds like it was made in a garage. A garage full of anger, humor and invention.



CONTRIBUTED

Why does the gaming industry hate us?

ALEX MILLER
michael6.miller@umontana.edu

Christmas was meant to come just a little early for some this past year. Renowned developer CD Projekt Red were about to triumphantly ring in the holiday season with the highly anticipated “Cyberpunk 2077.” But then, it came out. It didn’t work.

I was not one of the people that was ready to live or die by the game, but when the developer promised that this experience would define a generation of gaming, I bought in. I went so far as to change the time zone on my Xbox One just to play the game a day early. And it didn’t really work well.

And that is a major problem. “Cyberpunk 2077” is a buggy, glitchy mess that barely runs on the last generation of consoles. Despite numerous patches and CD Projekt Red’s promise that they will do anything they can to save the game, it still sucks. But this is not a first in the gaming industry, or even for CD Projekt Red. As games become more and more like services rather than insular, standalone titles, the product delivered to customers is often a shadow of what is promised.

This game was supposed to allow the player to inhabit one of three different versions of V (the supercool “name a main character with one letter” trope is really lame) in the corporate-run Night City.

The choices, big or small, were meant to matter, and would produce ripple effects in the narrative to make a truly unique experience. Instead, it feels more like being allowed to drive one of three predetermined pathways, with choices being more subtle than bombastic.

“Cyberpunk” is less RPG and more of an on-rails shoot ‘em up, which is not at all what was promised.

Now that is not saying that every game coming out is as big of a stinky turd that “Cyberpunk 2077” is. But many are unfinished and not ready for players to explore. The most recent bomb to date that made big promises only to not deliver was Hello Games’ “No Man’s Sky.”

In the months leading up to its August 2016 release, director Shaun Murray went anywhere he was invited to tout just how unique and groundbreaking the title would be. The universe would be the player’s oyster, and the possibilities were



supposed to be infinite for exploration. But then “No Man’s Sky” launched and it was a boring, procedurally generated shell of what was promised. And boy were people pissed.

“Cyberpunk” is going through sort of the same thing, but the situation is a bit more dubious. Currently, a class action lawsuit has been thrown onto the table. New York-based Rosen Law Firm made the claim that investors who sank money into securities have been misled, and now CD Projekt Red must pay the piper. With the game being about corporate greed and corruption, getting slapped with a class action lawsuit is a touch ironic.

Sony, the supposed harbingers of truth, removed the game from its store, and it is still unavailable. Sony, Microsoft and even the evil GameStop are offering refunds. The crazy part is that in CD Projekt Red’s quarterly sales report, the game shattered

expectations. According to the report over 8 million units were pre-ordered, and as of December, 13 million copies had been sold. Maybe it was because of the shoehorning in of the beloved Keanu Reeves that helped with sales.

So does this mean this game, with all its promise and failure to live up to expectations, is too big to fail? When I think of “too big to fail,” I am reminded of the 2008 economic crash when that fun little phrase was buzzed more than a pissed-off hive of death hornets. But this mess of a title is undoubtedly a juggernaut. And that sets a dangerous standard moving forward.

And that standard spells out that games will come as they are, and we’ve just got to smile and swallow.

The past year has, without question, been quite fucked up. So fucked up that the gaming industry cruised past both the

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON| MONTANA KAIMIN

film and sports industries combined in revenue. According to a December piece from Business Insider, the gaming industry swelled profits to nearly \$180 billion. So if games are a cash machine with no limit, and if we keep getting shit shows like “Cyberpunk,” is there any hope?

Maybe. The same team that coughed this troubled title up also developed one of the greatest games of all time: “The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt.” Now that game was a piece of shit when it came out. There were so many bugs it was nearly unplayable. But then something magical happened: They fixed it. Not only did CD Projekt Red fix the game, they made it better than ever. So good in fact that people usually forget that it was a garbage fire upon release.

But that does not make up for the new standard being set. Maybe by 2077 this game will actually work, but I am not going to hold my breath.

UM picks up win in final non-conference game

JACK MARSHALL
jack.marshall@umontana.edu

Montana picked up a win in its final non-conference game at home against the Whitworth Pirates on Jan. 9. The Griz won 84-67, making 20 free throws in the contest. “We had some really good stretches defensively,” said UM head coach Travis DeCuire. “The only thing that really hurt us was our own turnovers.” UM made 54.7% of its shots and was able to limit Whitworth to a 46.8% conversion rate on its shooting attempts. UM also made 16 more free throws than Whitworth. “We’ve been shooting [free throws] well lately,” said DeCuire. “We’ve had a pretty good stretch of making them.” Whitworth is a Division III school located in Spokane, Washington. The Pirates have had 15 straight 20-win seasons and made it to the Division III sweet 16 last year before the tournament was canceled. Whitworth caught UM off guard and took a 7-5 lead in the first half. Sophomore guard Josh Vazquez helped Montana early in the first half by making two 3-pointers and narrowing Whitworth’s lead to 14-12.

Vazquez had a team-high 14 points and made two of his five 3-point attempts. As the second half continued, UM began turning the ball over frequently. Whitworth was able to capitalize on these UM errors and keep the game close. With just over two minutes remaining in the first half, the game was tied 34-34. UM turned the ball over 19 total times in the game with 10 of its turnovers coming from Whitworth steals. Thanks to two successful free throws by freshman guard Robby Beasley III and a buzzer-beater by Vazquez, UM led 40-36 at halftime. Beasley III finished with 12 points and three assists for the Griz. In the second half, UM began to show why it is two divisions higher than Whitworth. Senior forward Michael Steadman pulled down an offensive rebound and put the ball into the basket five minutes into the second half to put UM up by 10. A few possessions later, Beasley III made a 3-pointer to keep UM up double digits. Steadman had eight points and eight rebounds in the game. With under 10 minutes left in the game,

Whitworth’s bench was called for a technical foul. UM made both free throws from the foul and went up 65-50. In the final minutes of the game, Whitworth began full-court pressing the Griz in an effort to get more steals. Thanks to some crafty dribbling from UM’s ball handlers, the press didn’t work and UM coasted to a 84-67 win. The Griz outscored Whitworth 44-31 in the second half. Five different Griz players scored in double digits. Montana’s record is now 5-6. Its next game will be against Northern Arizona University Jan. 14 at home.



SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

Lady Griz pick up an easy win against College of Idaho, look ahead to NAU

JOHN ORZECZOWSKI
john.orzeczowski@umontana.edu

The Lady Griz experienced a tumultuous weekend, but they capped it off with a win against the College of Idaho Yotes, 61-33. “It was fun to play someone new,” UM head coach Mike Petrino said. “It’s better to do this than practice each other. We’ve gotten enough of those in. We needed some game experience.” It wasn’t a pretty game offensively. Carmen Gfeller led the game in scoring with only 10 points, and Abby Anderson and Sophia Stiles each recorded three assists, also leading the game. As a whole, the Lady Griz shot a rough 31.7% from the field, including 27.3% from three. UM also committed 19 turnovers. What Montana lacked in offense, it made up for on the defensive end. The Yotes were held to shooting 22.2% from the field and 15% from three. Montana forced 24 turnovers and recorded seven blocks

along with 18 steals, four of which were recorded by Stiles. Madi Schoening pulled down seven of the team’s 51 rebounds, 15 more than the Yotes grabbed at 36. This wasn’t originally the team the Lady Griz were set to face, as a game scheduled for Saturday against the Division III Whitworth Pirates was canceled on Friday due to COVID-19 issues in Whitworth’s program. The men’s game went on as planned at 2:00 p.m., and around 3:00, it was announced that the Yotes, an NAIA school based in Caldwell, Idaho, would make the 7-hour bus ride to Missoula for a last minute matchup. “You don’t ever get used to it,” said Petrino when asked about the ease in which things have changed this year. “This summer I kept saying we’ve gotta plan, prepare, pivot. And I think lately we’ve been pivoting so much I’m starting to get

dizzy.” Petrino also said he was thankful to both schools for figuring out a way to make this game happen. This was only the Lady Griz’ seventh game this season. The Whitworth game was the fourth canceled matchup so far after two games against Southern Utah and a game against Utah Valley were called. As of right now, Montana is set to play two games against the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks on Jan. 14 and 16. The 5-5 Lumberjacks are 4th in the Big Sky Conference and will provide a competitive matchup against the 7th ranked Lady Griz, who have a record of 4-3.



SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

Griz basketball is back and better than ever

JACK MARSHALL
jack.marshall@umontana.edu

When I first turned on my TV to watch Griz basketball in late 2020, I was just excited to be able to cover live sports again. Little did I know that UM’s basketball teams, and the Big Sky Conference as a whole, were going to give us some downright phenomenal games. It all started when I was driving over Homestake Pass, which is exciting enough, and the Lady Griz were going blow-for-blow with Utah State. Nothing quite can replicate the suspense of waiting for a signal to come through on the radio when the last thing you heard was that a deep 3-pointer had been attempted. Next, it was the Griz men’s hoops team to put on a show. In a one-point loss to Southern Utah, the Griz reignited one of my favorite parts about Big Sky Basketball—the Twitter conversations it provokes. When the Griz were called for over 10 more fouls than Southern Utah, Griz nation went wild. You could spend at least 20 minutes looking through every Griz fan’s Twitter account just to see what colorful language they used toward the referees. Some rival fan bases called UM a “physical team,” which led to even more hate-fueled tweets from Griz fans. Thanks to some decisions by three random referees in Southern Utah during a basketball game, Montana fans finally had something to talk about. I even sent off a tweet or two regarding those refs. Two days later, history repeated itself. The Griz played another close game against Southern Utah and lost. It was a tough loss for UM, but still a fun game to watch. On Dec. 7, 2020, I got the early Christmas present of watching the Lady Griz play live and in person—an opportunity that didn’t used to be so rare. When the game was starting to get close, I got to feel the suspense that I had been craving from live sports for so long.

The Lady Griz beat North Dakota and then gave us some more excitement when they battled the nationally-ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs. Gonzaga won, but UM still showed that it could play well against one of the nation’s best teams. In mid-December, the men’s team gave Griz fans something to celebrate rather than heckle. The Griz traveled to PAC-12 school University of Washington and picked up a huge win over a power five school. Back-to-back games were the new norm over break. The need to make up for lost time (and the need to get back to playing other teams) was never more apparent. The Lady Griz only got more fun to watch when they took on Northern Colorado in early January. Despite being down 19 in the second half, UM rallied back and beat Northern Colorado. Two days later, the Lady Griz once again battled back from a deficit, this time one of over 20 points, and forced overtime. Northern Colorado won by a point, but man was it fun to watch some overtime basketball. While the Lady Griz were dueling Northern Colorado on the road, the men’s team was taking on Northern Colorado at home in some very close games. After losing to Northern Colorado by a point in the first game of the series, UM came back and beat Northern Colorado by one point in the second game. The second game tipped off bright and early at 9 a.m., the earliest tip-off in school history, but the close finish made it all worth it. So far, we’ve seen upsets, close finishes and great basketball from both of UM’s teams, and we’re just getting started. Both teams still have to play Montana State and Eastern Washington twice. With COVID-19 cancellations and weird scheduling, it also looks like the Big Sky Tournament may end up with some crazy results.

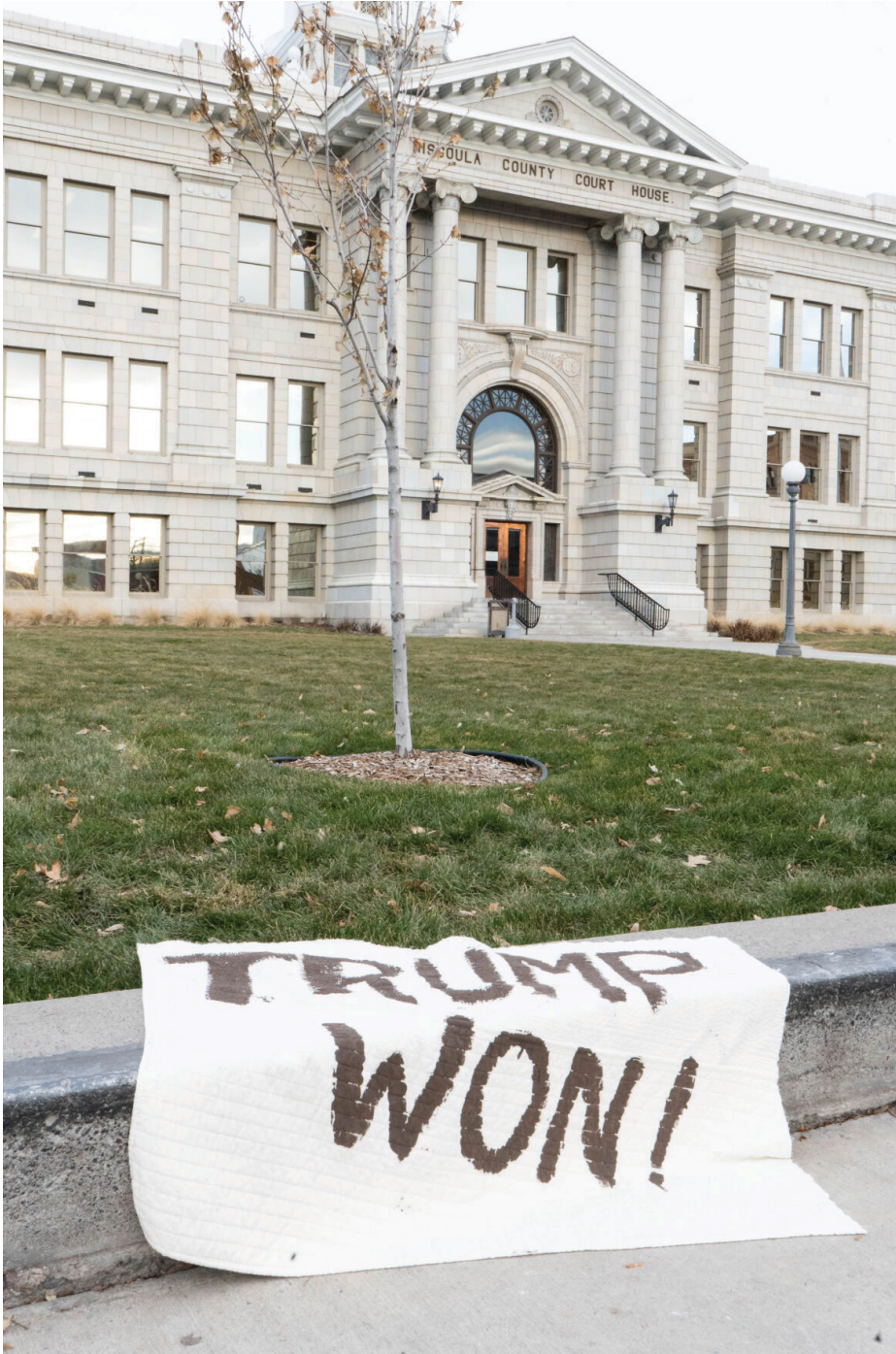


JACK MARSHALL | MONTANA KAIMIN

Missoulians gather at courthouse during riot at U.S. Capitol

LIAM MCCOLLUM

liam.mccollum@umontana.edu



Trump supporters and protestors gather at the Missoula Courthouse on Jan. 6, 2021. Some showed their support and others protested the certification process that was disrupted by Trump supporters forcefully occupying the U.S. Capitol building the same day.



Steve Finley, left, and John Rosasco, right, show their support for Donald Trump in a protest organized by a Facebook group called "Patriots of Montana," at the Missoula Courthouse on Jan. 6, 2021. Rosasco said that this was his first protest since he is "a part of the working class, which doesn't protest." He wants to start his own alt-media platform in Montana and suggested that people look for alternate media sources. "Alt-media is where it's at," he said. "If you are into journalism and you're getting disillusioned by the lame-stream (sic), you should be. The lame-stabishment (sic) will censor you and will fuck with your mind in all sorts of ways you won't be able to comprehend. It's time for honest journalism in America to make a comeback," Finley said.



Reyna Ferguson holds a "Fuck Trump" sign in front of the Missoula Courthouse on Jan. 6, 2021. Earlier in the day, Trump supporters forcefully occupied the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., in an attempt to delay the certification of the electoral votes for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. "I don't really think it's that cool," Ferguson said, referring to the occupation. "I mean, like Trump is kinda done with. I just think I'm doing the right thing right now, so that's all that matters is what I believe. If they can protest, we can protest."