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Missoulians try to find a new normal in a world without a normal

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Approaching the end: Apart but not alone

Dear Editor,

I am a Montana native and I’ve been lucky enough to call Montana home for the past year and a half. I’ve loved working as the Business Manager for the Montana Kaimin. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to work for the Montana Kaimin and for Steve Cline, the Business Manager. My vision is to continue developing the Kaimin and work with the students to make it an excellent resource for the student body and the community. It has been an amazing and challenging experience. I feel honored to have been part of the Kaimin family since 2019 and I am excited to see what the future holds for the newspaper.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Stay safe and healthy.

Cassidy Alexander
Business Manager

MEET THE 2020-2021 KAIMIN LEADERS

A unique and independent voice, the Montana Kaimin is the weekly student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish/Peigan people. A name derived from a Salish language word, “Qe’ymin,” reflects the students, employees, and community who have supported the Kaimin since its first publication.

To submit a letter to the editor, email editor@montanakaimin.com.

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Sports Reporters
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KAIMIN COMIC

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Kaimin Editorial

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NEWS IN HELENA PROTEST COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

A resident of Helena Court reported a noise disturbance late at night, at the sound of power tools keeping them awake. According to the Helena Independent Record, Helena Police Chief Steve Hagen said he didn’t believe everyone at the rally practiced social distancing, and UMPD was unable to enter the residence and locate the noise-maker within the minute of stay-at-home order.

As April 17, they have created around 5,360 jobs, 1,480 job sites, closed 150 job orders, 420 jobs and 300 job orders according to KRTV MTN News. Many port of worker were furloughed from their construction occupations (the restrictions on their constitution at right). Several people abandoned their - and sign with statements like “Freedom now” and “work is over” and “any time.”

According to reporting from the Helena Independent Record, Helena Police Chief Steve Hagen said he didn’t believe everyone at the rally practiced social distancing, and UMPD was unable to enter the residence and locate the noise-maker within the minute of stay-at-home order.

BUSINESS ESSENTIALITY PLANTUM CARAVAN FLATWheels and dents on their door where someone scraped. UMPD was unable to enter the residence and locate the noise-maker within the minute of stay-at-home order.

A Rock flew through a window of the Montana Department of Corrections and Treatment Facility, breaking a window of the Montana Department of Corrections and Treatment Facility, breaking. The Montana Department of Corrections confirmed cases and their contacts, “Bulloch is stated in an email. “Because we acted early and targeted with input from public health and emergency response experts, Montana has a significant advantage in our COVID-19 response.”

A federal judge canceled a key permit for the Keystone XL pipeline on April 17, but the ruling does not shut down work already in progress. The U.S. Department of the Interior permits the pipeline, which is expected to stretch from the oilfields in Canada across the border to the refineries in Texas. The hearing was part of an ongoing lawsuit that the Blackfeet Tribe appeals to the Montana Landlord Association is working to outlaw the directive (PDF).
MONTANA INMATES MAKE PPE FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

The Montana Department of Corrections announced April 17 that it is working to formulate a plan to reopen correctional facilities. Bullock confirmed cases and their contacts,” Bullock stated.

cal public health officials must be able to test all new patients, including those who have recently been exposed, and hospitals must be equipped to treat COVID-19 patients. Bullock said that he and a Coronavirus Relief Task Force are formulating a tentative plan to reopen the state. However, he said that it would be in place for a reopening to occur. There must be a way to flatten the curve and we have saved lives,” Bullock said. According to reporting from the Helena-County Health Board, more than 500 people are expected to participate in the Montana quarantine task force. The task force will be responsible for testing and tracking new cases of COVID-19.

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**News**

**COVID-19 closures push climate change activism online**

_A student-run campaign to cut the University of Montana's energy consumption by more than a third is finding new life after the global COVID-19 pandemic paused activism online. “One thing COVID-19 is going to be, if you ignore science, people die,” said Melody Hollar, an activist and president of the UM Climate Response club. Two weeks ago, the campus went online. Hollar is sitting on campus to spread the word about a campaign she's spearheading since the fall of 2018, the UM Campus E3: EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalency calculator. er trucks’ worth of gasoline, according to the vehicles driven over a year or about 300 tank-

Approximately 23,500 metric tons of CO2, consumption during the 2019 fiscal year was approximately 23,500 metric tons of CO2, consumption during the 2019 fiscal year was.

Facility Services, the University spent about $837,000 on natural gas to heat buildings with student-serving infrastructure. UM’s administration intends to invest in energy projects on campus, but we can’t buy electricity from other places,” Rocke said.

UM's options are limited when it comes to changing what type of power we have for changing what type of power we

“Until that status changes, the levers we have for changing what type of power we use and how much we limit. We can either reduce our own energy use on campus or build new energy projects on campus, but we can’t buy electricity from other places,” Rocke said.

“Until that status changes, the levers we have for changing what type of power we use and how much we

The University is a NorthWestern Energy by default due to a 1998 state legislative decision that gave UM a one-time opportunity to choose how it would purchase electricity. New, the University can’t purchase electricity from any company other than NorthWestern or University of Mississippi. Given the current situation with little authority over how the energy it consumes is produced, UM can’t determine whether it is consuming, coal, natural gas or renewable energy.

“Until that status changes, the levers we have for changing what type of power we use and how much we

However, Hollar is optimistic and is working on ways to engage students and administra-

Hollar said she does get pushback.

“People don’t like to talk about a campaign sign for “35% Less Energy By 2025,” Hollar stands next to the Griz statue on the Oval with a campaign sign for “35% Less Energy By 2025.” Hollar

For Hollar and the other Climate Response Club members, the COVID-19 outbreak has put paid to traditional tactics, “I’m bummed out. I was just starting to get a momentum going. Now I feel like I have to completely change my

However, Hollar is optimistic and is working on ways to engage students and administra-

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NorthWestern. This leaves the University with estimated savings in UM’s budget. With continuing pressure to become more sustainable, the administration is not ignoring the con-

UM's administration intends to invest in energy projects on campus, but we can’t buy electricity from other places, “Rocke said.

“Until that status changes, the levers we have for changing what type of power we use and how much we

McKinstry, the Seattle-based firm, will be paid to perform an energy audit on campus with estimated savings in UM’s budget. An audit is a practice or not,” Durnell said. “It’s hard to compete with other things we have to spend money on,” Rocke said.

The University of Montana’s central heating plant uses steam from natural gas to heat buildings with steam during the 2019 fiscal year. Over three times (or about 30 times) what we would’ve budgeted in 2019, Rocke said.

Of Montana is now involved in 35% Less Energy By 2025. During a Zoom meeting virtually on April 1, the student-run organization plugged into the University Center by the Climate Response Club, of-

McKinstry has worked with the University of Washington and University of Idaho on other energy efficiency projects.

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COVID-19 closures push climate change activism online

April 22, 2020

GREEN ZONE

geneva.zoltek@umconnect.umt.edu

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on electricity to power other facilities.

Times as much (about $3 million) was spent on energy at the Missoula campus. Electricity
aim to pivot that money toward their goal.

Student-serving infrastructure.

UM’s administration intends to invest in generated approximately $63 million, which
ful bond sale of $146.8 million. The bond sale
Eva Rocke.

Reduction goal could take millions of dollars,
ambitious. Accomplishing such an energy
It’s just, can we actually do that?”
Hollar said. “Everything does need to change.
who want everything to change right now,”
Reece said.

Hollar was tabling on campus to spread the
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2019, UM completed a massive

The bond sale money to go toward energy
co-sponsored the resolution, said the next
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KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE
Missoulians try to find a new normal in a world without a normal

The Montana Kaimin asked our photographers to capture life at a distance. At a time when we are hardly asked to step out of our homes, these are the new moments created by COVID-19.

A message of encouragement on the Roxy Theater billboard, early April 2020. The Roxy was scheduled to preview 75 films as part of the International Wildlife Film Festival, which will now be held online, April 18 to 25.

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Two people drive through Missoula with face masks during the Corona Virus pandemic.

EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

Victor Mendoza, left, and Miguel Angel Olivas, right, wait to take orders at the El Cazador food truck located on West Front Street, Saturday, April 18. Since the El Cazador diner-restaurant shut down because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the business took to the streets by serving customers out of a food truck. Olivas, a graduate student at the University of Montana, was saddened all his theater performances for spring semester got canceled. To help pay his bills, Olivas, who has worked in the food truck before, happily took the gig when his boss Alfredo Hernandez offered him a position. "It was full of anxiety because I didn’t know how I was going to pay my rent," Olivas said. "With that said, I’m thankful for Alfredo opening the doors for allowing me to come back to work. The stimulus [check] helped me and the taxes did too, but with the popularity that’s been given to us with what we’re doing and how we’re doing it, people have been coming out more." DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN
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A message of encouragement on the Roxy Theater billboard, early April 2020. The Roxy was scheduled to preview 75 films as part of the International Wildlife Film Festival, which will now be held online, April 18 to 25.

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Victor Mendoza, left, and Miguel Angel Olivas, right, wait to take orders at the El Cazador food truck located on West Front Street, Saturday, April 18. Since the El Cazador dine-in restaurant shut down because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the business took to the streets by serving customers out of a food truck. Olivas, a graduate student at the University of Montana, was saddened all his theater performances for spring semester got canceled. To help pay his bills, Olivas, who has worked in the food truck before, happily took the gig when his boss Alfredo Hernandez offered him a position. "I was full of anxiety because I didn’t know how I was going to pay rent," Olivas said. "With that said, I’m thankful for Alfredo opening the doors for allowing me to come back to work. The stimulus [check] helped me and the tax credits but with the popularity that’s been given to us with what we’re doing and how we’re doing it, people have been coming out more." DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN
University of Montana Dining worker Janyce wears a bandana as a face mask at The Market, inside the University Center, Monday afternoon, April 20. Janyce said although The Market has been less busy, students and staff still stop in to shop.

“There’s still about 95 students on campus, so they still come over and they have their meal plans to do a lot of grocery shopping,” Janyce said. “There’s still a bit of faculty on campus that will still come in for their coffee.”

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Roommates Sarah Boggs and Hunter Dow chat outside the Rhino. The Rhinoceros, a local Missoula bar nicknamed “The Rhino,” remains open during the Coronavirus pandemic. Patrons can order and receive drinks through the front door.

EMMA SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN

Taylor Coon takes a break from reading to chat with her study partner Miranda at the University of Montana oval, April 20th 2020.

QUINN CORCORAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

University of Montana Dining center. Janyce wears a bandana as a face mask at The Market, inside the University Center. Monday afternoon, April 20. Janyce said although The Market has been less busy, students and staff still stop in to shop.

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DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

LEFT: University of Montana sophomore Austin Wald stands on an empty sidewalk outside Mountain Tai Sushi on Higgins Avenue, Saturday April 18. Like many Missoulians, Wald ordered a take-out meal to go as dine-in restaurants were closed down in late March due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The last few weeks have not been easy for Wald as he temporarily lost his job as a massage therapist because he was deemed a non-essential worker.

TOP: Pie Hole employee Josh Park loads a to-go pizza box with a supreme styled pizza, Saturday afternoon, April 18. Since all non-essential businesses were closed down in late March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, restaurants like Pie Hole have been providing curb-side delivery. Like Park, employees at restaurants of all types are taking precautions against the spread of the virus by wearing face masks.

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN
University of Montana Dining worker Janyce wears a bandana as a face mask at The Market, inside the University Center, Monday afternoon, April 20. Janyce said although The Market has been less busy, students and staff still stop in to shop. “There’s still about 95 students on campus, so they still come over and they have their meal plans to do a lot of grocery shopping,” Janyce said. “There’s a lot of faculty on campus that will still come in for their coffee.”

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

Big Dipper has its seating boarded up and no line during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SAVANNAH STANHOPE | MONTANA KAIMIN

Taylor Coon takes a break from reading to, from a safe distance of about six feet, chat with her study partner Michael at the University of Montana Oval, April 20. 2020.

QUINN CORCORAN | MONTANA KAIMIN

Top: Part-time employee Josh Park loads a to-go pizza box with a supreme styled pizza, Saturday afternoon, April 18. Since all non-essential businesses were closed down in late March due to the COVID-19 outbreak, restaurants like Pie Hole have been providing curb-side delivery. Like Park, employees at restaurant chains are taking precautions against the spread of the virus by wearing face masks.

DANIEL DUENSING | MONTANA KAIMIN

LEFT: University of Montana sophomore Austin Wald stands on an empty sidewalk outside Montana Taichi on Higgins Avenue, Saturday, April 18. Like many Missoulians, Wald ordered a take-out meal to help keep local restaurants open during the COVID-19 outbreak. The last few weeks have not been easy for Wald. He temporarily lost his job as a massage therapist because he was declared a non-essential worker.
Professors grapple with uncertain sabbatical and research plans

MAYA KLEZER
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University of Montana professors awarded sabbaticals are expected to decide if they would work full-time, part-time or keep their plans for the coming year by Friday, April 24.

The uncertainty gets to all of us,” said economics professor Jeff Bookwalter. Bookwalter was awarded a full-year of sabbatical leave for the 2020-2021 school year. He offered to move to Washington D.C. with his wife, Mary, and daughter, Emma, if Bookwalter was a visiting professor at the business school of George Mason University in Virginia.

He was looking forward to the sabbatical, he said. He was also looking forward to traveling around the U.S. and the world with his wife. “It would be a disaster to have the sabbatical be cut short,” Bookwalter said.

Kathy Schrader, a psychology professor at UM, said she was unsure about her upcoming research plans. Schrader studies the phenomenon of ‘work-life balance’ and its impact on things like intellectual wellbeing and happiness. She was looking forward to the prospect of studying something that’s been mostly untouched.

She said sabbaticals are an incredible opportunity for them to be innovative and innovative research that can be brought back to the classroom. She added that she would be less productive if she were to work part-time. “I think sabbaticals are just an opportunity to focus, be the ‘other’ checks or explain his situation. She could not decide if she was determined or keeping his plans. If she had to definitively choose one option or the other, she doesn’t choose either,” Schrader said.

“Sabbaticals are a way to slow down and be more productive,” Schrader said. “You can’t have a sabbatical and keep all your plans, but they don’t know if it will work out.”

“We’re assuming the negotiations will get online or online point this summer, but we don’t know what’s the situation will be,” Klezer said.

“Sabbaticals are in their own form, he chooses the ‘other’ checks or explain his situation. He could not decide if he was determined or keeping his plans. If he had to definitively choose one option or the other, he doesn’t choose either,” Schrader said.

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“We’re assuming the negotiations will get online or online point this summer, but we don’t know what’s the situation will be,” Klezer said.
Professors grapple with uncertainty, sabbatical and research plans

MAZINA GERBERSDON
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University of Montana professors awarded sabbaticals are expected to decide if they would like to go on sabbatical, or keep their plans for the coming year by Friday, April 24.

“The uncertainty gets to all of us,” said economics professor Jeff Bookwalter. Bookwalter was awarded a full-year of sabbatical from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 school year. He was expected to move to Washington D.C. with his wife for the coming year for a visiting professor at the National Science Foundation of America and the research with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). But, he had to work hard to make sure they could take the sabbatical year together. Bookwalter’s wife found a job in D.C., and they were able to enroll their kids in schools in Washington D.C. But, now they’re not sure if they’ll still have jobs for the following academic year, even though there might be some more clarity. But, they said he would have to make the same decision a month ago.

If everything goes as planned, he’ll be able to travel the way foreign economic all flows from Montana to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. But, the in-person events in the fall might be canceled, impacting it's impact on things like investment and student anxiety. He was worried by the prospect of studying something that’s been mostly untouched. He said sabbaticals are an incredible opportunity to do interesting and innovative research that can be brought back and shared with UM students and the community. He let his advisor know he would like to take a leave of absence. So, the university gave him the option to choose a leave of absence with pay or be available for the Return Program.

“The university has to be the one to choose,” he said. “Because I chose the other, to be honest, and they don’t know if it’s a good idea.”

“We’re assuming the negotiations will run online until next semester, so we don’t know when that will be,” said Klene. She said her research would have to be delayed at least a week if the proposal were accepted. She said the proposal would be reworked if the project was delayed.

“I was grateful that the proposal was accepted,” she said. “But it was a nerve-wracking few days.”

The festival is now scheduled to screen films online from April 19 to April 25.

“We’re a little nervous because this is not what we do,” said Richer. “But I think we’re excited to try something new.”

Of the films, 54 will be available to the public for free. The other 21, including the Grand Prize winner, will require a ticket. The films will be available to the public until May 31.

“They’re all developed works of art that are available to people who are not in the field, whether they’re professional filmmakers or undergraduate students who are in the field,” said Klene.

“Once we’ve submitted the project, we can go into the festival and submit it for consideration. So, the first time film that is going to be shown in the festival that is presented by the public that is the first time film that is going to be announced, permanently, in a formal way,” said Klene. “We’ve been working on something.”

The festival will be screened online for seven days, with the tickets available for purchase from April 19 to April 25.

“Hopefully it provides enough meaning and entertainment for people,” she said. “It kind of feels like that’s where we’re at.”

Nature indoors: International Wildlife Film Festival moves online

Nature indoors: International Wildlife Film Festival moves online

The festival will include all of the features of the festival, including the film competition, the final day, the Q&A session, and the film awards. The festival will be live-streamed on the festival’s official website, as well as where you can stream films, visit wildlifefilms.org.

The festival will be available to the public for free. The other 21, including the Grand Prize winner, will require a ticket. The films will be available to the public until May 31.

“The pandemic has made everybody sort of thinking about what can we do,” said the International Wildlife Film Festival, as well as where you can stream films, visit wildlifefilms.org.
Opinion

**COVTD COUNSELING**
Advice for online therapy

I am a 20-year-old at Curry College, which is not bad at all. The middle of my second year was spent working in the COVID ward of the hospital. My days were filled with interactions with patients, doctors, and nurses. I had to work on COVID wards for over a month, which was a very challenging experience. I had to adapt to the new way of working, which included wearing protective gear and practicing social distancing. Despite the challenges, I found solace in the support and camaraderie of my colleagues.

At Curry College, we have a great deal of flexibility in online therapy. We can choose the platform that works best for us, and we can access it from anywhere. This is especially helpful for students who are living far from campus. I have been able to connect with therapists from around the country, and I have been able to choose the time that works best for me.

This flexibility has allowed me to explore different perspectives and to gain a better understanding of my own behaviors. I have been able to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, and I have learned a great deal from them.

I have found that online therapy is beneficial for me, and I would recommend it to others. It is a great way to explore new ways of thinking and to gain a better understanding of oneself. I have found that online therapy is a great way to explore new ways of thinking and to gain a better understanding of oneself.

**CURLY WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER ONLINE THERAPY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER TO STUDENTS WHO ARE ENROLLED IN SPRING 2020. SESSIONS ARE $45 EACH, OR $25 IF YOU ARE ENROLLED AT LEAST IN ONE SEMESTER CREDIT.**

Curry will continue to offer online therapy throughout the summer to students who are enrolled in spring 2020. Sessions are $45 each, or $25 if you are enrolled at least in one semester credit.

Welcome to 4/20: Everything is a meme

**SCORPIO 28 APRIL 2020 TO 23 OCTOBER 2020**

March 28, 2020. Someone told you COVID-19 would ruin your summer, but you ignored them and spent your summer planning for your summer. You are now in the summer, having fun and living your best life. You are a Scorpio, and you are ready to take on the world.

**SAGITTARIUS 23 NOVEMBER 2020 TO 21 DECEMBER 2020**

You are a Sagittarius, and you are ready to take on the world. You are ready to explore new places, meet new people, and have new experiences. You are a curious soul, and you are ready to learn something new. You are a Sagittarius, and you are ready to take on the world.

**CAPRICORN 22 DECEMBER 2020 TO 19 JANUARY 2021**

You are a Capricorn, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a practical soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Capricorn, and you are ready to take on the world.

**AQUARIUS 20 JANUARY 2021 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2021**

You are an Aquarius, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a creative soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are an Aquarius, and you are ready to take on the world.

**PISCES 19 FEBRUARY 2021 TO 19 MARCH 2021**

You are a Pisces, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a sensitive soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Pisces, and you are ready to take on the world.

**ARIES 20 MARCH 2021 TO 19 APRIL 2021**

You are an Aries, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a bold soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are an Aries, and you are ready to take on the world.

**TAURUS 20 APRIL 2021 TO 20 MAY 2021**

You are a Taurus, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a practical soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Taurus, and you are ready to take on the world.

**GEMINI 21 MAY 2021 TO 20 JUNE 2021**

You are a Gemini, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a curious soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Gemini, and you are ready to take on the world.

**CANCER 21 JUNE 2021 TO 22 JULY 2021**

You are a Cancer, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a sensitive soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Cancer, and you are ready to take on the world.

**LEO 23 JULY 2021 TO 22 AUGUST 2021**

You are a Leo, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a bold soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Leo, and you are ready to take on the world.

**VIRGO 23 AUGUST 2021 TO 22 SEPTEMBER 2021**

You are a Virgo, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a practical soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Virgo, and you are ready to take on the world.

**LIBRA 23 SEPTEMBER 2021 TO 22 OCTOBER 2021**

You are a Libra, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a social soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Libra, and you are ready to take on the world.

**SCORPIO 23 OCTOBER 2021 TO 21 NOVEMBER 2021**

You are a Scorpio, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a bold soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Scorpio, and you are ready to take on the world.

**SAGITTARIUS 22 NOVEMBER 2021 TO 21 DECEMBER 2021**

You are a Sagittarius, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a curious soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Sagittarius, and you are ready to take on the world.

**CAPRICORN 22 DECEMBER 2021 TO 19 JANUARY 2022**

You are a Capricorn, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a practical soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Capricorn, and you are ready to take on the world.

**AQUARIUS 20 JANUARY 2022 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2022**

You are an Aquarius, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a creative soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are an Aquarius, and you are ready to take on the world.

**PISCES 19 FEBRUARY 2022 TO 20 MARCH 2022**

You are a Pisces, and you are ready to take on the world. You are a sensitive soul, and you are ready to make your mark in the world. You are a Pisces, and you are ready to take on the world.
COUNSELING
Advice for online therapy

1. Dedicate a well-lit space for the session. Your facial expressions can be slightly awkward, so I made sure my face was well-lit and not too close to the camera.
2. Take it seriously. Before my session, I acted as if I was going to therapy. This helped me get into the right mindset.
3. Take a note of your session. You can write down your therapist’s advice on paper or take notes on your phone.
4. Bring stuff. Eye contact with a computer screen can be slightly awkward, so I made sure to bring something to keep my mind occupied.
5. Take control. This goes for all types of counseling. If you have a specific issue you’d like to discuss, you should bring it to your session.

I hope these tips are helpful! If you’re interested in online therapy, I recommend seeking out a therapist who offers it. Good luck!
Lady Griz player opens up on Shannon Schweyen’s departure, offseason

JACK MARSHALL
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Lady Griz guard Sophia Stiles contemplated putting her name in the NCAA transfer portal after the team lost in the first round of the Big Sky tournament, before it was revealed April 1 that head coach Shannon Schweyen’s contract would not be renewed.

“Shannon really cared about her players,” Stiles said. “When I got hurt, she was the first person to call.”

Schweyen replaced UM head coach Robin Selvig in 2016 after working for 24 years as his assistant. Selvig originally recruited Stiles, but when he stepped down, Schweyen took over.

Schweyen posted a 52-69 record in the four seasons she was head coach, including a 17-13 record in the 2019-20 season. On April 1, 2020, the Missoulian broke the news that her contract would not be renewed. UM has not issued an official statement explaining why Schweyen’s contract wasn’t renewed.

“There’s a lot of things out there in the media and on Twitter that are just wrong,” said Stiles. “I want to comment, ‘This isn’t right,’ but obviously I’m not going to do that. It’s just sad.”

Kent Haslam confirmed on April 20 that Mike Petrino will be interim head coach in 2020 for the Lady Griz.

“I actually didn’t commit right away to him [Petrino]. I was still thinking about leaving the program,” Stiles said. “He told me his vision and his philosophy and I just feel like I trust everything he is saying.”

On April 17, over two weeks after Schweyen’s departure, star freshman Jamie Pickens entered her name in the NCAA transfer portal. Pickens averaged more than seven points a game for the Lady Griz in her only season with the team. On April 17, MontanaSports.com reported that she intends to return to her hometown of Helena to play for Carroll College.

“Can’t believe we didn’t get the chance to fulfill our lifelong dream of playing in a Lady Griz jersey together,” Schweyen’s daughter, Shelby, tweeted after Pickens announced she was transferring. “I’ll always be your biggest supporter.”

Shelby and her sister Jordyn both redshirted for UM last season. No word has come regarding whether the two will remain on the team.

Guard Gabi Harrington and forward Kylie Frohlich both said they were transferring from UM in March, before Schweyen left. Harrington averaged 7.5 points per game for the Lady Griz, while Frohlich had 1.7.

Including Harrington and Frohlich, six of the nine players who appeared in UM’s last game will not play for the Lady Griz in 2020. Of those six players were seniors McKenzi Johnston, Taylor Goligoski and Emma Stockholm, who scored almost half of UM’s points last year.

This pattern of players transferring from the Lady Griz followed the former coach throughout her tenure at UM. Hailey Nicholson, Sierra Anderson, Nova Klick and Caitlin Lonergan all left the program during the 2017-18 season with eligibility remaining.

Katie Mayhue transferred to Texas-Arlington in April 2019. Sammy Fatkin left the team in December during the 2019-20 season.

“People and media can make it whatever they want, but honestly this isn’t where they were meant to play, and they didn’t feel like they fit into the system,” Stiles said.

Stiles recently had surgery on her injured shoulder and is currently doing physical therapy in her hometown of Malta. Despite the number of players the Lady Griz lost in 2020, she said she still believes the team will be good next season.

UM Athletic Director Kent Haslam reportedly offered Schweyen a two-year contract before revoking the offer, according to the coach in an interview with MontanaSports.com.

No announcement has been made regarding when the 2020 basketball season will start.