The workers behind Missoula’s election

Story by Griffen Smith
Photos by Matthew Tryan

Volume 123
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FEATURE PHOTO

Pyle Pittman and her horse, Golden Dollar, compete at the Thinlips of the Pearl Performance Horse 2020 Ranch Roping Finals on Oct. 4-11. Pittman shaved seconds off her 10s and made a run at 2019. On the Saturday round, she made a run in the 2020 series, and tied a course record in her 10s. Golden Dollar is the only horse in the field. About 500 people watched the competition.

KAIMIN COMIC

Kaimin Editorial

EDITORIAL

Positive case numbers are not the only numbers we should be paying attention to.

We write our editorials on Mondays, two days before we print. On Monday, the Missoula City-County Health Department updated its UM COVID-19 dashboard; there were 33 new cases added from over the weekend. We don’t know what the number of active campus cases is going to be when this editorial runs in print, but on Monday it stood at 168. More disconcerting, however, is the number of students, staff and faculty who have had to quarantine, and 600 campus members officially. This means 600 people who have had to quarantine, and 600 campus members who have had to call Curry Health Center or the health department to schedule a test to see if they are, in fact, positive. If every one of the 33 cases added since our last editorial runs in print.

If you’re a student living with roommates and need to quarantine, that means closing yourself in your room and waiting a month in any shared living space. Hopefully, you have your own bathroom separate from your roommates. Because that’s super common and affordable, isn’t it? Good thing you probably don’t have to go outside much, because you aren’t allowed to hang out with anyone. Because that’s not a real test.

The reality is there are multitudes more campus members affected every day just the 100+ active cases we see on our dashboard. We can’t how UM’s handling Covid-19 on only the number of active cases. Every close contact is a potential contact test something, so should be glovering over. Not only do close contacts have to schedule a test to ensure the safety of the system, they have to make a list of any close contacts they might have—should they test positive. They will have to wait for their results from two separate tests or that the course of multiple days. It’s not as simple as you’re welcoming to see whether or not you’re contact- ed. The days that have been counting a global pandemic. And at this point, it doesn’t matter how safe you’ve been. You can’t always be sure. Because that’s super common and affordable, isn’t it? Good thing you probably don’t have to go outside much, because you aren’t allowed to hang out with anyone. Because that’s not a real test.

And the mental load of being a close contact test something, so should be glovering over. Not only do close contacts have to schedule a test to ensure the safety of the system, they have to make a list of any close contacts they might have—should they test positive. They will have to wait for their results from two separate tests or that the course of multiple days. It’s not as simple as you’re welcoming to see whether or not you’re contact- ed. The days that have been counting a global pandemic. And at this point, it doesn’t matter how safe you’ve been. You can’t always be sure. Because that’s super common and affordable, isn’t it? Good thing you probably don’t have to go outside much, because you aren’t allowed to hang out with anyone. Because that’s not a real test.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE}

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LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD? Jimus’ best contact number is 2020. Expecting everyone to do something about it.

There are levels of magnitude in every aspect of this pandemic’s effect on every single person. The number of positive cases. We should be
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Looking for Missoula City-County Health Department’s UM COVID-19 Dashboard? You can find it here.

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Blotter: Wine, cigarettes and stolen bikes

Since last week’s Blotter, UM Police reported 11 crimes on and around campus. Six of those crimes were burglaries. Students are encouraged to lock their doors and windows, and pets usually appear on the crime log too.

9/2/1 Wine Night?

While doing rounds in Plaza Hall, one student walking across the hall with a bottle of wine in their hands. UM Police was not called, the student left the hall, and safety was still on campus. The perchers on Monday.

10/12 No Strikes for You

UM Police responded to a report of a student who is on campus with a firearm. The student is suspended for the remainder of the academic year. The student was later arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

10/12 COVID-CR USING

UM Police is advising students to stay on campus and practice social distancing. The campus has implemented new procedures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These procedures include mandatory mask wearing, increased cleaning of common areas, and reduced capacity in buildings. Students are also encouraged to stay home if they feel sick.

10/12 September 23

A student was walking near the Union when they were approached by a group of individuals who were carrying signs and chanting. The student was later arrested for disorderly conduct.

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**Briefs & Blotter**

**UM RECEIVES LARGEST RESEARCH AWARD IN UNIVERSITY HISTORY**

The National Institute of Health awarded The University of Montana the largest research award in UM history. The award was funded by the NIH through a UM News release. The award will be used to increase the number of research awards to UM. UM President Seth Bodnar said the award will be used to support research in the field of cancer treatment.

**UM NEWS CENTER**

Since last week's blotter, UMPD reported 10 crimes and 20 accidents. Several students were reportedly robbed, and one student had their backpack stolen. The department has also reported that several cars were hit by deer on the campus.

**10/23: WINES NIGHT?**

A student walking near the Oval noticed a car with a bottle of wine in their hands. UMPD responded to a caller from Helena who said they had been called to the scene, and nobody could be found in the residence. The department later confirmed that the resident was under the influence of alcohol and was not called to the scene.

**10/23: NEW VENTILATION SYSTEM**

The University of Montana concluded its COVID-19 clinic and RBG's legacy. UM received its largest research award in university history. The award was funded by the NIH through a UM News release. The award will be used to increase the number of research awards to UM. UM President Seth Bodnar said the award will be used to support research in the field of cancer treatment.

**10/23: ESCAPE WITH THE HELP OF THE STARS**

The Revolt of Conservative Elites” and UM Professor Elizabeth Warren will be hosted with RBG DISCUSSION. The Revolt of Conservative Elites” and UM Professor Elizabeth Warren will be hosted on the UM campus. The event, according to the Montananews Center’s website, is a new virtual lecture that will feature a discussion of the book "The Revolt of Conservative Elites.”

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Students placed in quarantine housing face poor WiFi, unsafe conditions

JACOB OWENS
October 7, 2020

As University of Montana COVID-19 quarantine and isolation apartments have struggled with inadequate internet access, food delivery, and cleanliness issues, students face a difficult experience amid the ongoing pandemic.

Students at the University of Montana have faced challenges in their quarantine and isolation housing units, with internet access and cleanliness issues being particularly problematic.

Jacob Owens

University of Montana Elvert Villages apartments on Oct. 5, 2020. Apartments in the Elvert Villages and the Sisson complex are being used to house students in quarantine and isolation.

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JACOB OWENS
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Of the older apartments with concrete walls.

in isolation the WiFi was too poor for him to

not have a roommate, though.

but those in quarantine are alone. Derosa did

positive for the virus can be placed in isolation

versity Villages on Sept. 15. Students who test

connection was never great. She had to sit in her

for WiFi, but it wasn’t sufficient. She received

she ran into several issues with WiFi, cleanli-

Apartments at the University Villages, where

JACOB OWENS
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Martin said the University has been working

to resubmit the online form for the meal kit.

But Price said if her boyfriend hadn’t brought

sheets and used plates. “That’s huge windows, in the living room,

in the bedroom, in the kitchen and there’s just windows pretty much everywhere, and so like at night I couldn’t really have my lights on because I’m a girl living in an apartment by myself.

Price said “I saw a few curtains.” Price needed out to Martin about the lack of curtains, and she said the received some “make-shift” curtains. The lock was also re-

Derosa said he had more than enough food

as a close contact. Price was provided with a Verizon Jetpack
to hire a full-time investigator to expand

and the sink, toilet and shower were all dirty

moved if necessary.

He said students experiencing issues in

those at the beginning of the semester, but he

paired within a few days.

“Makeshift” curtains. The lock was also re-

Price said she only had curtains in one of

Sara Diggs | Montana Kaimin

Wrongful conviction walkout highlights Montana justice system failures

Wrongful Conviction Day, and the walkers

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Wrongful conviction walkout highlights Montana justice system failures

University of Montana Elliot Villages apartments on Oct. 5, 2020. Apartments in the Elliot Villages and the Sisson complex are being used to house students in quarantine and isola-

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Markets in the Ballot for Justice arrive at the Missoula County Courthouse on the evening of Oct. 2, 2020. The walkout, hosted by the Montana Innocence Proj-

Wrongful Conviction Day, and the walkers

convicted individuals and their families

in Montana were held outside the Missoula County Courthouse, in support of the Montana Innocence Project and the group’s efforts to raise awareness of wrongful convictions. Oct. 2 is the annual International Wrongful Conviction Walkout Day. Montana Justice Project

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The workers behind Missoula’s election

Bridger Swan news is an election judge for the Lolo school bond election on Oct. 29, 2020. Election judges issue ballots and help people fill out mail-in ballots at registration form at polling places.

Story by Griffen Smith
Photos by Matthew Tryan

Montana Secretary of State, almost 100,000 more ballots than ever before. The first time for a Montana statewide election. The winner would likely solidify which party controls the Senate in D.C.

The workers in Missoula County, in particular, has drawn national attention, as current Montana Secretary of State, Coyan, said. “We will be working for days on this in November, but we will not see everyone counted by the end of election day,” Coyan said. “The job is not done until the last ballot is counted.

Now, as Election Day approaches, the office is preparing to do it again. Though President Donald Trump has publicly attacked mail-in voting and filed several lawsuits challenging the system, workers in Missoula County are committed to the process. They know how to run it. They know how to do it well.”

The November election may see the highest voter turnout in the state’s history. According to the Federal General Election Statistics in April, 58% of the nation’s poll workers are 61 or older. Due to COVID-19, many poll workers in Missoula and around the country do not return to their jobs. The office is working to train and hire new workers online and in person.

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Photos by Matthew Tryan

Montanans voted in the June 2020 primary than the turnout in the history of Montana. According to the Federal General Elections Office, during June’s primary, it responded to widespread voter fraud. The evidence suggests, “This case requires the Court to separate fact from fiction,” U.S. District Court Judge Dana L. Christensen argued mail-in ballots are unconstitutional because they increase voter fraud. But at 8 a.m. in Missoula, the judge ruled in favor of Gov. Bullock’s mail-in option, overturning the election office’s decision to reject votes from out of state. Montana are due by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, meaning

North Carolina’s blockbuster lawsuit against the Trump administration and several Republican states that argued mail ballots are unconstitutional because they increase voter fraud was filed in federal court. But at 8 a.m. in Missoula, the judge ruled in favor of Gov. Bullock’s mail-in option, overturning the election office’s decision to reject votes from out of state. Montana are due by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, meaning

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The election will be conducted primarily by mail-in voting. In Missoula, the heart of it all is the Missoula County Election Office, a dozen other socially distanced clerks repeated his oath, took their seats and began the swearing in ceremony. In the quiet basement of the Missoula County Courthouse, Nathan Coyan lifted his right hand as he recited the oath of an election judge for the Lolo school bond election on Sept. 22, 2020. Election judges conduct primaries and directly register voters. He explained how the pandemic interrupted the usual cycle of poll worker training. While the office canceled in-person training in March, they moved online to supplement the already 300 poll workers who are planning to work this November. “We were able to engage about 300 of the nation’s poll workers online,” Coyan said. “We have been able to engage about 300 of the nation’s poll workers online.”

Most election judges are elderly. According to Bradley Seaman, the average age of a Missoula County poll worker is 61 or older. Due to COVID-19, only 36% of poll workers in Missoula and around the country did not return to their jobs. “Kathleen’s 60 years of poll worker experience is invaluable,” Coyan said. “She was able to work from home for the first time.”

Brad Seaman works as the head elections administrator for Missoula County. He explained the process for a mail-in election, and they know how to run it. “The court stated that not only is mail-in voting a safe election format, but said Montana does not have reports of vote fraud at all,” Coyan said. “In Montana, we train our election judges as election judges.”

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September the Montana Supreme Court ruled against the state statute on research and voter consolidation.

While the majority of voters in Montana can easily vote by mail now, there are possible changes to the election system that might force them to change their methods. Some of the changes that have already been implemented include the use of electronic voting machines, which are considered more secure and efficient than paper ballots.

Voters can return the ballot via mail for free, or they can drop it off at the election office on election day. Montana is also one of the few states that allows for early voting, which allows voters to cast their ballots before election day.

The state's methods to process ballots makes it almost anonymous, as the march connects to the county's USB connection system. The machine connects to the county's USB connection system. The machine connects to the county's USB connection system.

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For example, the law, stating it discriminated against rural and tribal voters, was struck down by the Montana Supreme Court. After verifying the ballot, the affirmation board will ask the voter to sign the secrecy envelope. If an error is found, the ballot is set aside and marked with a question mark.

Most of this year’s election workers will be behind the William badenoch and the other poll workers refused to sign the ballots, which were rejected. Seaman organized the event, but many of the workers who voted that day were not told about the change in procedure. "I don’t think people understand how much work it was," she said. "It will be bustling."
"I don't think people understand how much work goes into putting on an election, it's very time consuming, and it's very labor intensive. I also don't think people realize how many checks on the system." - Sarah Polusky
From theater to couch: Montana Film Festival goes virtual

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The Montana Film Festival at the Roxy, is proving to be triumphant, digital smart.

“It’s as similar as you can get to showing the film in person at our theater,” Waksman said.

“We have a lot of great films we can share,” Waksman said. “Even though so much of the

“Two Eyes,” directed by Travis Fine

“Freeland,” directed by Mario Furloni and Kate McLean

“Shiva Baby,” directed by Emma Seligman

Festivals
to Montana campus. “Zero Point” brings viewers into its subtle mystery, inviting

“Rubber and Glue,” directed by Cat Dale

“Cold Pizza,” directed by Clayton McDougall

“Cold Pizza” feels like the reality quizzed of a pocketbookliner. “Shiva Baby” is the sequel to the 2017 short film of the same name. It stars Danielle Arbid, an old-school Northern California pot farmer whose life has stretched from growing illegal weed. Her distribution network collapses as news of the fine leaks growing into a new world of free love and cheap grass to paranoia. As she protects herself and those around

“Zero Point,” directed by Ryan Graham-Laughlin

“Freeland” is a weed-hazed feature film with beautiful and
dramatic flair. It stars Krista Fairchild as Danni Adler, an old-school Northern California pot farmer whose life has stretched from growing illegal weed. Her distribution network collapses as news of the fine leaks growing into a new world of free love and cheap grass to paranoia. As she protects herself and those around

“Two Eyes,” directed by Travis Fine

Three states, three groups of people and a world premiere. Dillon (Benjamin Reis) is an artist working to raise his two daughters, Lily (Lily Dillenger) and Alex (Alexa M. Luoma), in bohemian hippies swinging through the 1960s. It’s a transgressive teenager and music

“Two Eyes” are a grouchy but endearing old man who doesn’t understand technology, a fake friend with too much going on, and sweet animal helpers in the form of geese. “Cold Pizza” is full of the archetypal
deadly. The camera cuts to serene Ponderosa pine
taries, a style on display in “Freeland.”

“Two Eyes” make its world premiere at Montana and is screening for the first time in Montana, where it was partially filmed.

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“Two Eyes” make its world premiere at Montana and is screening for the first time in Montana, where it was partially filmed.
From theater to couch: Montana Film Festival goes virtual

For the first time in its six-year history, the festival is all online. A $20 pass includes unlimited access to 35 movies, some of which are making their world or Montana premieres. Directed by Roxy staff and festival director Allison Waksman, Four of the feature films, “Cowboys,” “Two Eyes,” “Zero Point,” and “Cold Pizza” are specially made for this year’s film festival is meant to be enjoyed from the comfort of home.

“We have a lot of great films we can show,” Waksman said. “Even though so much of the spark of the Montana Film Festival is the in-person connection.”

Waksman acknowledged that not all audience members will be able to experience the films as intended. Online, the festival will see the benefit of being able to provide quick, easy and fun access to the festival’s showcase. Online, the festival will see the benefit of being able to provide

“We’re trying to make it as appealing to the variety of voices and perspectives that might not otherwise come to Montana,” Waksman said. “We really want people to have fun, to experience these films that might not otherwise come to Montana.”

The Montana Film Festival, hosted by the Roxy, is making a triumphant, digital return. For the first time in its six-year history, the festival is all online. A $20 pass includes unlimited access to 35 movies, some of which are making their world or Montana premieres.

“Cold Pizza” feels like the side quest of a darkly comic superhero

“Cold Pizza,” directed by Clayton McDougall

The thriller “Zero Point,” directed by Ryan Graham-Laughlin. “Zero Point” is a weed-hazed feature film with beautiful and dramatic flair. It’s a story of Hana (Krisha Fairchild), who discovers an entire cup of marijuana inside her favorite coffee shop.

“Rubber and Glue,” directed by Cat Dale

The film stars Dihlon (Benjamin Rigby) and his wife, Devi (Krisha Fairchild). Dihlon is an artist who is consumed by a desire to make art. Devi is a nurse who is struggling to balance her job and her family.

“Shiva Baby,” directed by Emma Seligman

“Shiva Baby,” which screened at the Toronto International Film Festival this year, is one of the festival’s #mostanticipated selections, only available to local cinemas. Based on a short film directed by Emma Seligman, this low-key, indie dramedy centers on the humorous yet harrowing tale of one woman’s attempts to host a Shiva, the Indian Hindu mourning ritual, for a family friend.

“Alec Miller

“RUINED IT,” directed by Michael Patrick Kane

“RUINED IT” is a short film that follows Danielle (Dianna Agron), a young woman who is trying to do what her family wants her to do: get married. Danielle is a free spirit who wants to do things on her own terms. She decides to spend her 21st birthday weekend partying and exploring her identity.

“Cold Pizza” feels like the side quest of a darkly comic superhero character. The pizza shop is a darkly comic superhero character. The pizza shop is a darkly comic superhero character.

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As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the Missoula fitness industry, the Missoula Regional Park in downtown Missoula has observed an increase in people utilizing public lands for fitness.

“We have noticed many people recreating outdoors in the community,” Director Kelvin Whittaker said. “There has also been quite a decrease in program participation at Campus Recreation as well as general memberships. We firmly believe that this stems from a desire to comfortably work out and socialize.

“We have noticed a desire for outdoor activities and exercise. The choice to offer classes outdoors is allowing us to continue offering our program with a blended approach. This year was looking really good,” she said.

Missoula fitness centers see increase in public land use

Missoula fitness centers have seen an increase in public land use as people have turned to outdoor activities to stay active during the pandemic. The Missoula Regional Park has observed an increase of people exercising outdoors, and Fit to Fight, a non-profit exercise program three times a year, has offered all its fitness classes outdoors.

“Missoula has observed an increase of people utilizing public lands for fitness,” director, Fit to Fight’s Clinical Director, Maddie Small said.

Sports

Missoula fitness centers see increase in public land use

Horoscope

In a typical year there are approximately 25 teams for each of the intramural basketball and volleyball. This year, though, there are only 18 intramural basketball and volleyball teams. Natalie Hiller-Claridge, senior assistant director of intramural sports and youth camps at the University of Montana campus recreation center, said that she was able to increase the number of last week for potential intra- team exposures.

“About 25 percent of COVID-19 cases are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms,” she said. “This year we are adapting in being resilient to the current situation.”

Jennifer Kieffer, a senior sand-volleyball captain who has participated in intramural sports for the past five seasons, noticed a few general changes to the usual season.

While UM sports are canceled, intramurals live on

Normally, she said, the volleyball season begins in September and lasts until March, with practices indoors and games outdoors. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, volleyball will move outdoors, with practices and games.

“Intramurals though, are run separately from the campus recreation center, and have the freedom to adapt to different circumstances,” she said.

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“While UM sports are canceled, intramurals live on,” Emond said.

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Jennifer Kieffer, a senior sand-volleyball captain who has participated in intramural sports for the past five seasons, noticed a few general changes to the usual season.

However, she agreed with Emond that, overall, changes feel minimal.

“Normally, we would have contact day, when our team would play against another team. Now, they改成matchday,” she said. “It’s really the highlight of my week.”

Emond said that he has appreciated that sense of normalcy this year, and that he hadn’t heard of any students who chose not to participate in intramurals due to coronavirus risks.

“All of my teammates have come back really motivated in the last week,” he said. “I think it’s great to hear that people are still coming back.”

Emond is an intramural soccer captain, and this is his ninth season participating.

“I’d never seen an outdoor volleyball or soccer game.”

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Emond is an intramural soccer captain, and this is his ninth season participating.
In a typical year, there would be
approximately 40 teams for each of the
sports at the University of Montana.
This year, though, there are only
four teams for women’s soccer and
football teams, and five volleyball teams.
Natalie Hillier-Chlaridge, the
senior assistant director of intramural sports
and youth camp at the University of Montana
campus recreation center, said that the
school only allows teams to compete if there
are enough people on campus to organize
them. The Big Sky Conference canceled all
fall sports due to COVID-19 concerns, and
yet several of the competitive classes on
campus were able to be held on UM’s campus,
as athletes in several sports continue to work
out and practice together. Intramurals, though,
are run separately by the campus recreation
center, and have been allowed to continue,
even though a single game of soccer can put 22
or more people in close contact.
Julian Emond, a second-year MBA
student, said that he feels safe playing
intramural sports this year despite the risk
of COVID-19. “In most cases, I’ve been
able to wear a mask on the field,” he said.
“Once you’re there, it doesn’t feel very
different.” Kieffer said, “Everyone’s there
playing and having fun. It really feels
normal once you’re out there.
Emond said that he has appreciated
that sense of normalcy this year, and that he
hadn’t heard of any students who chose
not to participate in intramurals due to
COVID-19. “I mean, there’s been
somehold for the most part. She felt
comfortable and welcomed with her
weekend workouts.
On the other hand, other students
hadn’t heard of any students who chose
not to participate in intramurals due to
coronavirus. Emond said that he had
appreciated that sense of normalcy this
year, and that he hadn’t heard of any
students who chose not to participate
in intramurals due to coronavirus.
All of his teammates have come back
really enthusiastic to be playing.
He recommended Hillier-Chlaridge for
her work in making the season possible.
“She’s done a great job of allowing us to
still play this fall while making it feel
responsible and safe,” he said.
Emond felt that the intramural season schedule
could be found on the campus recreation
page of UM’s website, which can be
reached by navigating to the department
page for UM’s campus recreation center.
Noah Brancaccio, Montana Kaimin
Sports
Missoula fitness centers see increase in public land use
JESSICA MEJIA
June 27, 2020
As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the Missoula fitness industry, the local non-profit Sports
and Recreation Services has reported an increase of people turning to the outdoors for fitness.
“Sports and Recreation Services has seen a
huge increase in business since the beginning of
March,” said director Kelsey Whittaker. “Due to
people being unable to use indoor gyms, we’ve
seen an increase in the number of people using
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According to Whittaker, the increase in outdoor
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