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1-27-2022

### Montana Kaimin, January 27, 2022

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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# MONTANA KAIMIN

## STILL DREAMING

*How a UM student found her  
voice fighting for DACA*

Story and photos by Antonio Ibarra



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January 27, 2022 | Volume 124 | Issue No. 16

# Kiosk



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

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## THE GARAGE: SE 2 EP 2



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN



# Go, go Lady Griz!



Montana's Sammy Fatkin shares a moment with a young family member after the Lady Griz flew past the Portland State Vikings at Dahlberg Arena on Jan. 20. Montana is currently on a conference streak after coming back from a week hiatus because of COVID-19 postponements, winning three of its last home games against Eastern Washington (68-50), Portland State (93-57) and Northern Arizona (66-60). The Lady Griz will move on to play against Montana State in Bozeman in the first of two Brawl of the Wild games on Jan. 24. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

## Campus renovations a sign of desperation

This month, students returned to a snowy campus filled with pockets of clamorous construction noise as the University begins its next phase of development.

Usually, this sound signifies a celebrated achievement as we upgrade for future generations of Grizzlies — and a necessary task that has to happen at some point while our education is in progress.

But these projects, riddled with delays and cost increases, appear more like a desperate reach for UM to keep up with the multiple promises it made in the past.

Construction efforts in Aber Hall, Knowles Hall and the Lommasson Center are all behind schedule. UM said this is part of a nationwide shortage of construction materials, leaving some projects like Aber only half complete.

But perhaps we should look at these delays with a new set of eyes.

Knowles Hall, which was scheduled to begin renovations in fall 2021, couldn't be upgraded because of a lack of rooms for students, partly because Aber Hall — one of the two largest dorms on campus — is transitioning into an administrative building.

Aber's transition would then clear the way for the partial demolition of the Lommasson Center, which in turn will be the location for a shiny new dining hall.

There are already many moving parts in this story, and throwing a pandemic in the middle probably didn't help. But are we shooting ourselves in the foot this way? Why is UM burdening our on-campus community by creating this bottleneck on the future of development?

The key is vision and forethought, things UM appears to lack. The University seemed to believe it would have enough empty rooms on campus to renovate Knowles, but with a 30% larger freshman class last fall, there were few options to do a mid-semester construction.

Now look at Montana State. Our rival school completed a new residence hall, a new Native American Center and a new athletic complex. Not to mention MSU has a student wellness center in the works.

It's true that MSU has the space — and funds — to grow, and UM is working in a tight space with an even tighter budget. But if we are going to keep building, we need to build smarter.

The University needs to plan for the supply chain delays. Because right now, each delay in one project will delay another. And those delays impact student life.

*Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?*  
email us your opinions at [editor@montanakaimin.com](mailto:editor@montanakaimin.com)

### SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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

#### HOW TO SOLVE:

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

Answer to Previous Sudoku:

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

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# THE KAIMIN CAST

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New episodes Thursday





# Briefs: AG challenges abortion ruling, COVID-19 hospitalizations soar

GRIFFEN SMITH

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## AG OFFICE CHALLENGES MONTANA ABORTION RULING

The Montana Department of Justice took a new step in the state's legal battle surrounding abortion, asking the Montana Supreme Court to nullify a 23-year-old ruling that some consider the state's version of Roe V. Wade.

Austin Knudsen, Montana's attorney general, wrote the high court last week to reverse a Yellowstone County judge's temporary hold on three bills passed in the 2021 state legislature.

The laws in question would ban abortions after 20 weeks, restrict access to abortion pills and require abortion providers to ask patients if they would like to see an ultrasound of their fetus. After the legislature passed the bill, Planned Parenthood sued the state.

Yellowstone County Judge Michael Moses placed the laws in an indefinite injunction Oct. 20.

The 1999 Armstrong ruling found Montana's right to privacy — notably stronger than the federal government's protections — covered a woman's right to obtaining a lawful medical procedure like a pre-viability abortion from a health care provider. The ruling also introduced "procreative autonomy" rights for women.

Knudsen's office argues the ruling is not based in the Montana Constitution, writing in the brief "Yes, the Montana right to privacy is broader than its federal analog, but the right to an abortion appears in neither."

## COVID-19: HOSPITALIZATIONS RISE UNDER OMICRON

Missoula's latest coronavirus spike might be associated with less severe symptoms, but officials worry the sheer amount of positive cases could overrun the region's hospitals.

The Missoula City-County Health Department reported 23 new UM-affiliated COVID-19 cases over the weekend, bringing the total active number to 199 students, faculty and staff — the highest number to date.

Countywide, there were over 3,000 active cases Monday. With the record-breaking numbers comes an increase of hospitalization and deaths. There are more than 50 people in the county hospitalized with the virus, and six people have died from COVID-19 in the last week.

"With this amount of COVID-19 in our community, all of our resources are strained," said Hayley Devlin, public information officer with Missoula County. "We have a considerable number of health care workers out with COVID, so it is not just a concern of beds, but how many people are actually able to help."

The county health department is asking the public to wear effective masks, like N95s, to help slow the spread. Health officials are also hoping more young people get vaccinated, as over 60% of all new cases are those aged 10 to 39.

People testing positive for COVID-19

are slightly more likely to be unvaccinated, numbers from the health department confirmed Monday. Though the rates between vaccinated and unvaccinated have often been identical during past spikes, the positive case rate for unvaccinated have stayed far higher during virus peaks.

## SCOTT STREET AFFORDABLE HOUSING AWARDED PUBLIC FUNDS

A large-scale affordable housing project in North Missoula took home a large check last week as planners began construction on the area's roads and utilities.

The Scott Street Redevelopment Project, which started moving forward in 2019, is a 70-home complex. Owned by the city and partially financed through the city's Tax Increment Financing fund, the project would only allow people making 100% to 120% of the city's median income to purchase a residence.

The Missoula development board unanimously passed the spending plan, giving the project more than \$315,000 to get the property's infrastructure ready for construction, according to reporting from the Missoulian.

The land is currently held in a land trust, meaning the city would have some ownership of the property. The trust would let the project keep selling houses at the median income rate as it changes in the future.

Currently, with a median income of

\$51,000, houses and condos would sell between \$250,000 and \$340,000. Once completed, the Scott Street project would be the largest affordable housing project in Missoula's history

## WORLD WATCHES AS UKRAINE CONFLICT ESCALATES

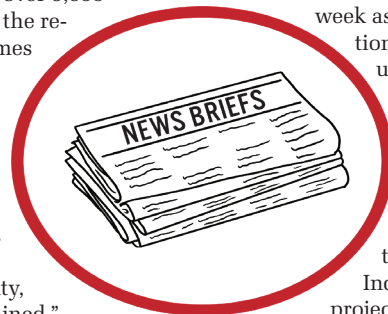
As more than 100,000 Russian troops amass on the eastern border of Ukraine, the U.S. and other allies are discussing a response plan that could include U.S. troops on the ground.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, known as NATO, announced last week the alliance is sending aircraft and military ships to back up the democratic country of Ukraine, which is already dealing with political unrest and the loss of the Crimean Peninsula to Russia in 2014.

Defense officials briefed President Joe Biden Saturday, with some responses including deploying as many as 5,000 U.S. troops in the area, alongside air support and maritime presences, The New York Times reported.

"Even as we're engaged in diplomacy, we are very much focused on building up defense, building up deterrence," Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said in an interview that aired Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation." "NATO itself will continue to be reinforced in a significant way if Russia commits renewed acts of aggression. All of that is on the table."

On Sunday, the U.S. State Department told diplomatic personnel in Ukraine to "leave now," and advised Americans to avoid the region as Russian aggression continues.



# Blotter: Crime's back, and it's ... stealing tools?

ANDY TALLMAN

andy.tallman@umontana.edu

Between Jan. 13 and 20, UMPD responded to four crimes. The most common crime was theft. These are the stories:

## MONDAY 1/17: DEERLY DEPARTED

A deer in the Bannock Court area was grievously wounded, likely by a car. An officer put the deer down with his gun at about 8:30 p.m. UMPD Police Chief Brad Giffin said UMPD either puts such carcasses in the dumpster or calls garbage services. What a waste of good venison.

## TUESDAY 1/18: ELEVATION TRIBULATION

Officers rescued three people stuck in the Adams Center elevator between the first and second floors at around 6 p.m. Of all the times to be stuck in a small box with other people, the midst of a plague is perhaps the worst. Unless you're an Ace Attorney character.

## WEDNESDAY 1/19: FIXER-UPPER

Around 11:50 a.m., one of the houses owned by the University on East 5th Street reported a burglary. The thief entered the

garage and took multiple maintenance tools, possibly to build a shed to store other ill-gotten gains. About half a block away, UMPD was able to recover an air compressor, an aluminum ladder and a can of WD-40. If the cuts UM's been throwing around lately are any indication, the recovery of those items might have saved the University from bankruptcy.

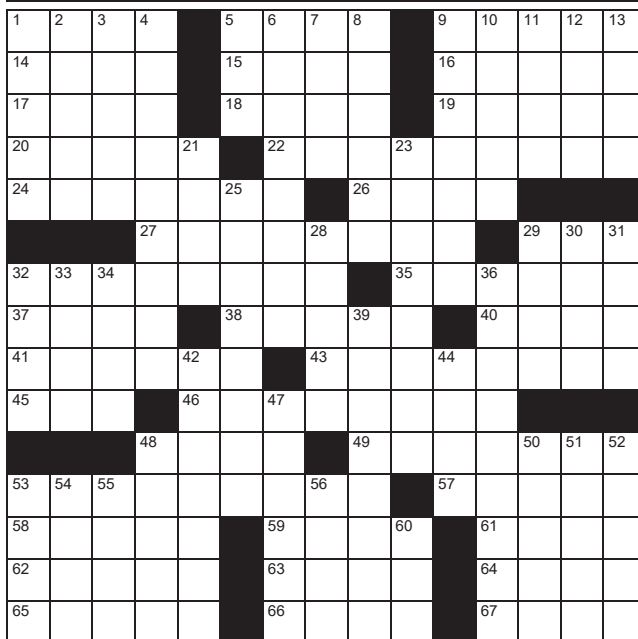
## WEDNESDAY 1/19: RETURN OF THE BIKING

Everyone put your hands together for the first bike theft of the year! Except it could actu-

ally be the last bike theft of 2021, because the locked-up bike was taken from outside Pantzer Hall sometime between Dec. 17, 2021 at 4 p.m. and Jan. 19, 2022 at 10 a.m. Either this theft capped off a year of many bike thefts, or it is kicking off another year that will no doubt be equally ridden with them.

## WEDNESDAY 1/19: AFTER HOURS

Two students trespassing in the Schreiber Gym were removed at about 9:30 p.m. and given conduct violations. With the tuition we're paying, we should be able to go into whatever building we want, whenever we want. Which is why I'll be hosting my birthday party in Seth Bodnar's office. Unvaccinated need not attend.



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ACROSS

- 1 Flip out
- 5 Farm workers?
- 9 State of disorder
- 14 Yield
- 15 Poet Angelou
- 16 Divide in two
- 17 Engine sound
- 18 Barbell exercise
- 19 September bloom
- 20 Plain folk
- 22 Soft mineral often carved
- 24 Used-car datum
- 26 Pal, in Perth
- 27 Remedy
- 29 Flow stopper
- 32 Organize, in a way
- 35 Shade of blue
- 37 Owl's call
- 38 Kind of colony or code
- 40 Mind-matter connector
- 41 Catch in a net
- 43 Item on a carousel
- 45 Kan. neighbor
- 46 Exhausted
- 48 On the side of
- 49 Like some boat motors
- 53 Sketch
- 57 Make a case for
- 58 Oscar or Tony
- 59 Put in the mail
- 61 "Dark Angel" actress
- 62 Take pleasure
- 63 To \_\_\_ his own
- 64 Cost to cross
- 65 Word before school or route

- 66 Squirrel's nest
  - 67 Farm females
- DOWN
- 1 "Get out!"
  - 2 Watts of "The Impossible"
  - 3 Be of use to
  - 4 Harass
  - 5 Pacer maker
  - 6 Revolt
  - 7 Newbie
  - 8 Pizza topping
  - 9 Correct by punishment
  - 10 Swiftess
  - 11 Type of sax
  - 12 Place for a roast
  - 13 Arid
  - 21 Mover's duty
  - 23 Expo structure
  - 25 Black lead
  - 28 On edge
  - 29 Cher, et. al.

- 30 Countless years
- 31 "Encore!"
- 32 Now and \_\_\_
- 33 Top-notch
- 34 Perform poorly
- 36 Grad-school goal
- 39 Theatergoers, e.g.
- 42 Take for a ride
- 44 Marching band member
- 47 Discontinued, with "out"
- 48 Pumped up
- 50 Visibly happy
- 51 Moscow money
- 52 Does a casino job
- 53 Old Dodge
- 54 Pitcher
- 55 Basalt source
- 56 Eye drop?
- 60 Your of yore

Answers to Previous Crossword:



MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

CLARISE LARSON  
clarise.larson@umontana.edu

What do you get when you mix drugs, strobe lights, tasteful nudity and fully grown adults playing children? "EUPHORIA!" This show is basically "Riverdale" with more drugs and better acting. With a loaded cast full of God's sexiest creations, it's hard not to fall in love with everyone in the show. But who do you pair best with? Let's find out.

**AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18):** You're ~different.~ You prefer the city ... like smh you just NEED to get out of this stupid little town and into the REAL world, aM i rIghT? So quirky, but also very intelligent — Jules can ride me free of charge.

**PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20):** You would rather solve everyone else's problems than your own and that's why you're just like our Bob Ross daddy Lexi. Our queen pissed in a bottle on multiple occasions to save Rue's ass, but does not have the emotional capacity to tell Fez she's got the hots for him.

**ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19):** Not excusing Nate's numerous flaws and red flags, but you're just like him. Behind that confident facade you put on, you're really just a little baby boy who needs a hug and some therapy.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20):** Nothing like going to an NA meeting and getting your shit absolutely handed to you by Ali, right? Man's on a mission to fix Rue, but also lowkey tap her mom, and not give two fucks about how she feels about it.

**GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20):** You're Nate's dad, AKA Cal Jacobs. By day you're a straight white male just doing straight white male things. But by night? You're a throbbing homosexual. Look, we're not saying you're gay but we're not NOT saying you're gay. We are saying that just like every other gemini, you're a two-faced motherfucker.

**CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22):** Porn star baby angel, Faye, you little heroin addict. Sweetie, maybe you're always high and have no clue what is going on, but you have a bf who promises you'll never get caught for pushing that man off of the balcony. Fingies crossed <3.

**LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22):** You are the star of your own show, and \*BREAKING\* we do not and will not ever live in a reality as cool as "Euphoria," but DREAM ON kiddo. And, just like Cassie, the reality of life's responsibilities often gets trumped by your need for dick ... I mean love.

**VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22):** As our lord and savior The Rock™ once sang, "It's about drive, it's about power, we stay hungry, we devour." Chris "Mckay" has got some big aspirations and dreams. He worked hard to make it D1. Too bad Cassie is out here looking fine as hell and distracts him from getting that cash money.

**LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22):** Madddddddy? Idk where or how you afford the clothes you wear throughout the show, but sleep with one eye open, bitch — we are coming for you.

**SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21):** POV: You're butt-ass naked with just a cat mask on, throwing it back for a real one (aka some lonely 45-year-old man staring at the camera) and then your mom walks in the room with your laundry ... wyd?

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22):** Rue needs to STFU about quitting drugs if she's not gonna. Like, just ~get it~ queen, OK? JK, don't do drugs people — they may be yummy — but they will ruin your life. Rue, check yourself before you wreck yourself.

**CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19):** Fez. <3 He's so cute and gentle. Truly an angel. He does it all: raises a child, sells drugs to minors, runs a pretzel stand AND a gas station. He may have beaten Nate to the brink of literal death, but hey, Fez was just looking out for the homies.



# From campus to candidate: UM-raised politicians fight for HD 96

CHRISTINE COMPTON

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Two University of Montana graduates are campaigning for a seat in the Montana State Legislature, but they'll have to face each other first.

The candidates, Maggie Bornstein and Jonathan Karlen, filed for the House District 96 seat as Democrats on Jan. 12 and Jan. 13, respectively. Both are closely tied to the University and voiced disagreements on how to best run the office.

HD 96 spans from rural Huson to the west side of North Reserve Street in Missoula. The district houses 11,376 people, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Whomever wins the seat in the district will join 99 other Montana representatives to author bills and approve budgets for the state.

Bornstein, a spring 2021 grad, spent her college days directing lobbyists as the student political action director of the Associated Students of the University of Montana. She worked for the Montana Human Rights Network researching extremism and was the lead advocate for families facing homelessness at the YWCA, Bornstein said.

She now works for the Missoula Food Bank as the donor engagement coordinator. Bornstein champions homelessness, food insecurity and domestic violence as the key issues of Montana.

Karlen is completing his Master's degree in public administration at UM this spring. As an undergraduate, Karlen worked in Montana and Arizona studying local wildlife. He funneled his outdoor experience into resource policy making, Karlen said.

In May 2021, he helped expand fishing and hunting opportunities to UM students, according to a press release. Later that summer, the Missoula City Council appointed Karlen to the Missoula Energy and Climate team. Karlen said improving education and focusing on climate change are his top priorities.

Republican Kathy Whitman, a former community council member and elections judge, currently holds the seat. She narrowly defeated challenger Loni Conley by 200 votes in the 2020 election. Before Whitman, Democrat Tom Winter held the seat, winning by even slimmer margins.

In a Republican-dominated state, Bornstein and Karlen agreed that the stakes are incredibly high for Democrats. Montana



UM graduate Jonathan Karlen is running as a Democrat for House District 96 in the upcoming primary. Karlen studied wildlife biology and minored in climate change studies. He is running on improving education and focusing on climate change issues in the state. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

has a "Republican trifecta," meaning the governor, Senate and House are all right-leaning.

If Democrats lose even two House seats, Republicans will be able to pass bills without any Democrat input, Bornstein said. Despite their shared history and political beliefs, the candidates clashed over each other's approach.

Karlen said he prides himself on his use of scientific research and willingness to "reach across the aisle." Karlen said the toxic polarization of Montana is delaying progress and much-needed policy.

From his perspective, the only way to move forward in a Republican-dominated field is to collaborate with all players.

"In Montana, we have no choice," Karlen said. "If I'm elected and choose not to look across the aisle, I'll get nothing done."

Karlen said his experience in the legislative process gives him an edge over his

opponent. Karlen worked as a legislative intern for U.S. Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer in summer 2021. He also analyzed congressional bills for the U.S. Forest Service in summer 2020. Karlen said it takes more than activism to pass a bill.

"I know Maggie well. We've worked together. I was on ASUM senate here at UM, and she was on the [Student Political Action Committee]," Karlen said. "I think that on the issues, Maggie and I would agree on the vast majority of things. I think how we would go about making the changes are different."

For Bornstein, science and numbers are valuable, but they never trump the human experience.

"It's a mark of my competence and professionalism that I don't need numbers to know I'm on the ground," Bornstein said.

Much of Bornstein's perspective is



UM graduate Maggie Bornstein is also running as a Democrat for HD 96 in the upcoming primary. Bornstein studied African American studies, sociology and women's, gender and sexuality studies. She is running on addressing homelessness, food insecurity and domestic violence. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**

informed by her non-profit work and her experience with financially-insecure families. Bornstein recalled working with single fathers who couldn't feed their children and elders who couldn't navigate food stamp applications.

Bornstein said reaching across the aisle means diluting the message that people matter. She said she refuses to compromise her values for insignificant wins that do not change people's lives.

"It's sort of a myth that some of these issues are bipartisan or not bipartisan," Bornstein said. "It's an excuse to not lead with people. I always think people should be first and forefront in our minds in our policy."

The two will face off on June 7 in the Democratic primary election. The winner will run against returning Whitman, another UM alumnus, in the general election on Nov. 8.



# Housing shifts isolation standards for spring semester

ANNA HENNING

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University of Montana Housing recently changed its policy from quarantining all campus close contacts to only isolating positive COVID-19 cases, but officials are preparing for the possibility UM won't have enough rooms to isolate every positive student, based on the latest surge.

"We can evaluate the need for quarantine in some [close contact] cases, but expect that the spaces will be primarily for isolating positives," said Paula Short, associate vice president of campus operations.

This semester, the average isolation period is lower because of less severe symptoms the omicron variant. The Centers for Disease Control recommended the average isolation period be five days, down from the previous recommendation of 10.

As of Jan. 24, there were 199 active UM COVID-19 cases, the highest rate ever. Countywide, more than 160 cases per 100,000 people were reported last week, also the highest level during the pandemic.

There are only about 40 beds available in UM's quarantine and isolation spaces, the same amount as last semester. With the expected spike in COVID-19 cases, UM Housing plans to have residents isolate in their rooms if all beds are occupied.

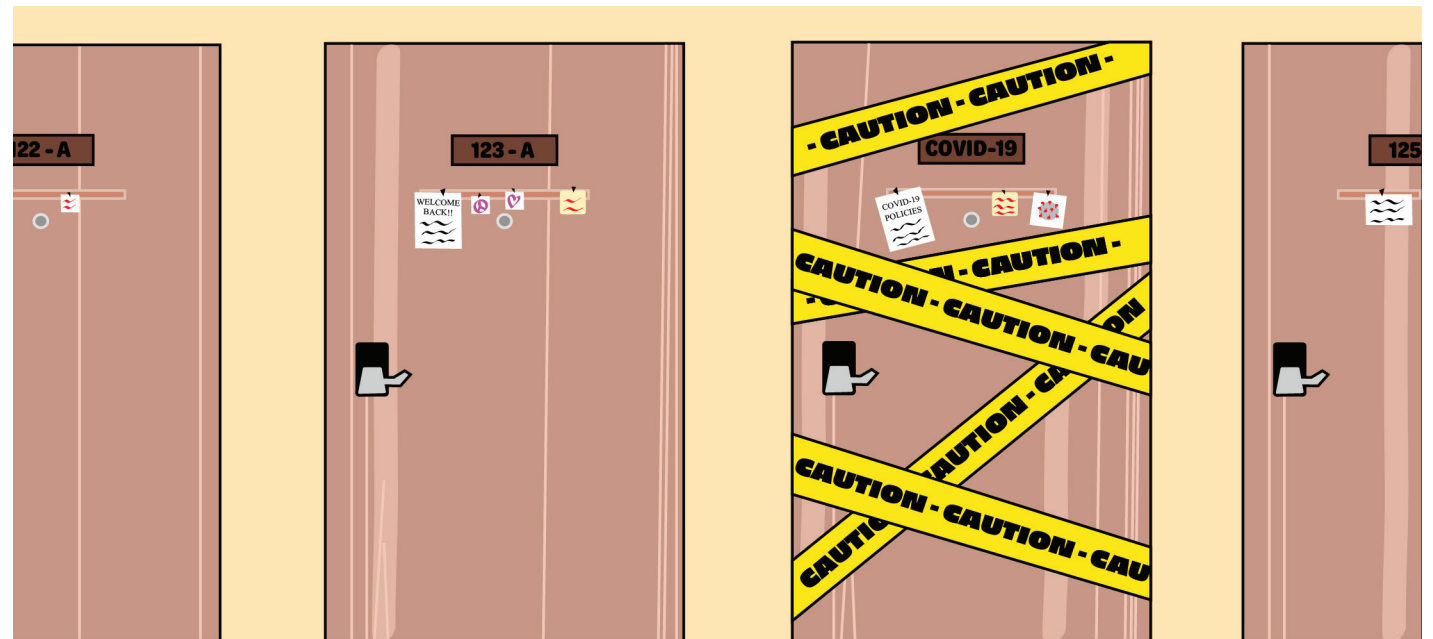
"It's not unlike if you live in a house with multiple people," Short said. "You have to isolate there and can't move out of your space."

In fall 2020, the University supplied students more than 100 quarantine and isolation spaces, most centered in Aber Hall. The residential hall is now closed because of a larger campus renovation.

Short said many students who have family nearby opted to go home for their isolation period. This is only an option for students who can drive home and will not be putting anybody else at risk by isolating there.

UM Housing does not give orders for how long students isolate. Housing coordinates the space and meals, while students must monitor their symptoms and work with the county health department. The isolation period is determined on a case-by-case basis.

"Students communicate to us when



MCKENNA JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

they're ready to leave based on what they've been told from Missoula City-County Health Department," said John Nugent, director of residential education and community standards at UM.

The reduced emphasis on contact tracing is a result of county recommendations and not enough resources. According to Short, UM does not have enough people to conduct full contact tracing like last semester.

"You may recall that some of that contact tracing was delayed substantially just because of overload for the contact tracers," Short said.

Close contacts who are unvaccinated or not up to date on vaccines are still recommended to quarantine for five days and get a test at the end of that period, according to the CDC. However, close contacts are no longer a main focus for UM Housing.

To support students, UM will provide transportation to the quarantine and isolation spaces if needed. UM Dining provides food to these spaces, including cold meal packages and at least one hot meal a day.

"A lot of people on campus are involved," Nugent said. "There's a lot of people putting in a lot of hours to provide the best support we can to students who are in a really rough situation."

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# STILL DREAMING

*Nursing student uses her voice to fight for the future of DACA*

Story and photos by Antonio Ibarra

Nursing student Nereyda Calero slaps on a pair of gloves before starting a catheter insertion practice during her weekly registered nurse skills lab at Missoula College. Nereyda is a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipient from Chihuahua, Mexico, and the second in her family to go to college.

Nereyda Calero dropped her kids off at school on a September morning in 2017 and got ready to tackle her day's work at Providence St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula as a nursing assistant.

Nereyda had plans to continue working toward her dream of becoming a registered nurse and getting a degree at Missoula College. Divorced and raising two children at the time, she rarely had a minute to spare. But on this day, she took a moment for herself. She snapped on her TV and flipped to the news.

Ten minutes in, her world crumbled. The Trump administration announced it was

rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, putting the future of Dreamers like Nereyda in jeopardy.

She stared at the screen, in tears.

"God, please help me," she said to herself.

Her mind was a whirlwind of emotions as she imagined every possible scenario. Would she get deported back to Mexico? Would she lose her kids and her mom, everything she'd built over the years?

It was unfair. She and other Dreamers worked, went to school and paid taxes. They contributed to their new country as essential employees working long hours, and as volun-

teers in various sectors of American society.

In 2012, the Obama administration granted protection to Dreamers like Nereyda who were illegally brought to the United States as children.

Before then, she'd lived a secret and limited life. She couldn't apply for federal student aid and pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer or nurse. She couldn't get a driver's license, let alone stand up to employers who took advantage of her as an undocumented worker. Her situation meant she couldn't speak up.

Nereyda felt as if her life was constrained to living in the penumbra of society. But after

she had her first two kids, they became her motivation.

"They deserve more than what I had. I didn't want them to be hungry like I was or not [be] able to get a good job because [they] don't have papers."

Under DACA, Nereyda took agency in her life. She enrolled in an emergency medical technician course, started working at St. Pat's and got her driver's license, proving she belonged in the U.S., and in Missoula. Now, she's pursuing her nursing degree at the University.

In 2021, President Joe Biden reversed the Trump administration's decision and re-estab-



lished the rights of Dreamers who had received protection under Obama's DACA rules. This change served to remind her about that day in 2017, when Nereyda knew she had to take a stand.

"I was full of anger," she said. She drove to the nearest store to buy markers and wrote messages all over her car protesting the decision: "Support DACA" and "Here to Stay."

A photo of her car she posted on Facebook hit a thousand likes within the hour. A couple days passed, and it went viral as immigrants' rights organizations around the country reached out to show support.

She heard from United We Dream, a national immigrant youth-led network that fights for immigrant rights; and Montanans for Immigrant Justice, a group formed after the 2016 election in reaction to rhetoric against immigrants coming from the White House.

"We're looking for Dreamers from Montana," members told her.

In less than a month, Nereyda would be rallying alongside 300 other DACA recipients from around Montana and the country protesting for their rights on Higgins Bridge. A year later, she rallied again at Caras Park, where she spoke at a women's march elevating the voices of others like her around Montana.

That day in 2017 became Nereyda's call to action — a calling to fight for immigrants' rights and her dreams.

## STAYING BEHIND

Nereyda, now 33, is a single mother of three. Missoula's been her home for more than a decade after she moved here from Las Vegas for job opportunities. Remembering what she and her family went through in search of a better life is not easy.

Nereyda still remembers the day her mom, Rosalba Chavez, left Mexico with her younger sister Marissa and older brother Mauricio, heading for the U.S. Seven-year-old Nereyda was left behind, devastated in a place that soon became unsafe.

Before her mom's departure, growing up in Chihuahua was not easy for Nereyda. Rosalba and her dad, Guadalupe Calero, had a troubled marriage when she was young.

Guadalupe had problems with alcohol and affairs with other women in the town of Naica, where their family was living at the time. His drinking kept Rosalba and her kids from being able to come home.

"It was hell having to live like that," Rosalba said. "Oftentimes when he was drinking, he would kick me and my kids out of the house and we would have to stay with other family. It was horrible to live like that, which is why I decided to divorce him."

Despite that, Nereyda's love for her dad was strong. After the divorce, Nereyda felt she needed to stay and take care of him.

"I would sleep with my dad, and my brother and sister would sleep with my mom at night. I was very attached to my dad," she said. "I would



Ever since she was a little girl, Nereyda knew she wanted to become a nurse, but the fact that she was undocumented prevented her from applying for jobs, getting a driver's license and going to college. After receiving DACA protection from the Obama administration in 2012, she was able to pursue her higher education dreams while advocating and fighting for immigrants' rights around the state.

even have nightmares of my dad dying and me wanting to jump into his grave."

Her mom met another man. He eventually convinced Rosalba to get away from Guadalupe and their problems by starting fresh in the United States. They took Marissa along with them. Nereyda's brother, Mauricio, was sent to Las Vegas later to reunite with Rosalba, while Nereyda stayed behind in Naica with her father.

Rosalba was puzzled to see that her oldest daughter wanted to stay with her dad in Naica.

"She just really loved her dad despite everything. I wish I could've brought all of my kids, but I couldn't," she said.

Living with her dad was draining for Nereyda. Guadalupe started living with the woman he was having an affair with when he was still married to Rosalba. Nereyda had to adapt to a different household and new step-siblings. There she was seen as an outsider and felt unloved.

"She had three kids and they were nice sometimes, but they were mostly mean and kind of abusive," Nereyda said. "I remember one day I got to their home and they just grabbed the hose and started getting me all wet



Rosalba Chavez and Nereyda help Marissa, the youngest of Nereyda's three kids, slip on her coat as they get ready to go out for the night. Rosalba said she's a proud mom and grandmother and is happy to see her daughter pursuing her nursing dreams in college.





Nereyda holds up a photo of her when she was 3 years old living in Mexico as she shares a moment with her grandma Modesta Chavez, left, and her mom, Rosalba, at their apartment in Missoula. Modesta and Rosalba have been living in the U.S. for a little over 25 years after immigrating from Mexico. Nereyda said she's happy to have the stability and love her family provides to her and her kids in Missoula.

and I would just yell for them to stop.”

Guadalupe's alcohol problems also haunted Nereyda. Her stepmom would force her to go to the cantinas of Naica and fetch her dad after he was done drinking. Nereyda described long nights outside bars waiting for her dad to come out because she wasn't allowed to enter.

“If I didn't bring my dad from the cantina, the lady wouldn't let me into the house. So I had to wait outside the cantinas for hours and hours until my dad would come out drunk,” she said. “Thank God nothing happened to me.”

The situation worsened over time. At some points, Guadalupe's partner said hurtful things to her in front of her dad, who rarely stepped in to defend her.

Nereyda's family had enough. They knew her dad meant the world to her, but they hated seeing her in this spiral. One of Nereyda's uncles finally brought her into his home, where she no longer roamed the streets after dark searching for her father.

When Rosalba learned what was happening to Nereyda, she decided it was time to bring her to Las Vegas — no matter what it would take.

## THE BEGINNING OF A LIFE-LONG JOURNEY

In the blistering July heat of the Sonoran Desert, 8-year-old Nereyda gripped her aunt Mirna's hand.

It was 1997, and with only the things they could carry in a couple backpacks, young Nereyda, Mirna and her two cousins embarked on a dangerous journey across the Mexican border to the U.S. They hoped to reunite with family on the other side — including Nereyda's mother,

whom she hadn't seen for almost two years.

As the heat pounded down on them, Nereyda held her aunt's hand while they walked the streets of Agua Prieta, Sonora, looking for a coyote — a smuggler — the group could hire to get them across the border into Arizona.

The stretch of land they would attempt to walk through is one of the most hostile routes migrants take. Many have died, and few make it safely across. According to Humane Border, which collects data from medical examiners in counties along the Arizona-Mexico border, since January 1999, there have been more than 3,000 deaths in highly trafficked areas of the desert.

Hours passed before Mirna located a coyote to guide them through the Sonoran Desert. The cost: \$1,500 in cash.

The next night, the smuggler took them to a house near the border where about 15 people waited inside to go across.

It was 3 p.m. and the July heat was blistering. Nereyda remembers carrying gallons of water — and hearing a set of twins, little girls, who kept crying and crying.

As they made their way through the arid terrain, Nereyda felt the sting of dry, thorny bushes scraping her young face and body. Her two younger cousins were at a breaking point from the heat and the pain. Their cries pierced the air as they trudged behind the smuggler.

Then the sound of propellers thundered above.

A helicopter flown by agents with Customs and Border Protection appeared on the horizon and headed their way. The group started to panic.

The coyote yelled, “Hey! Get down under the tree!”

Nereyda was so scared she screamed,



Nereyda pours over pages of her notes on the second-floor of the Missoula College before heading to her nursing lab. Nereyda says most of the costs for books and school supplies come out of pocket since being a DACA student doesn't allow her to apply for federal scholarships or financial aid.

“Mom!” But her mother wasn't there.

Five minutes later, officers surrounded them. Nereyda and her cousins stayed close together as officers arrested them all and loaded them up into a pickup.

In the next few hours, they were taken to a migrant detention facility to get their photos taken and be fingerprinted.

The detention center was in a location unknown to Nereyda, and it looked like a prison. People were in cage-like cells waiting to be processed and deported back across the border.

The women and children were separated from the men.

Like most 8-year-olds, Nereyda had never seen so many people in cages before. Looking back now, she can't imagine how much more terrified she'd have been had authorities separated her from her guardian, as U.S. Customs and Border Protection did to hundreds of children who arrived with their parents at the southern border under the Trump administration in 2019 and 2020.

Hours passed as Nereyda and her family were processed. Then, they were driven back to the border for deportation. After their first attempt at crossing, they tried again four more times.

The next three attempts are fuzzy in Nereyda's mind. But she remembers the exhaustion from walking and running many miles. Some in the first group didn't attempt to cross again; others were never seen again after getting deported.

In their fifth attempt, a coyote guided them in the night through a different route. At a safe house, a group that had made it across the day before waited for the others.

As Nereyda and her family crossed a bridge to the U.S. after days of trekking through the

countryside, a white Ford Econoline waited for them outside the safe house.

After one of the scariest experiences in her life, Nereyda remembers feeling a sense of relief as she and her family got inside the van and settled in for the long drive to Phoenix.

## THE REUNION

Hours into the drive, the group made it to the Arizona state capital. Nereyda's memory fades after their draining crossing attempts. She recalls they met up with her aunt's husband, who drove them to Las Vegas to reunite with Rosalba.

As they pulled into the driveway of Rosalba's suburban Las Vegas home, she, Marissa and Mauricio were standing outside. It had been almost two years since Nereyda had last seen her family.

“I felt safe. I didn't recognize my sister because she was this little skinny thing when she came from Mexico,” Nereyda said. “I remember telling her that she got puffed up. I didn't really think my sister was the same. But after we talked, she was the same person that came from Mexico.”

For Rosalba, reuniting with her daughter was the biggest relief, and others there could see her happiness radiating as the two embraced, Nereyda said. Later, Rosalba would tell her daughter that her departure from Mexico devastated her. She admits she suffered not seeing her baby girl.

One of Nereyda's uncles recalls seeing Rosalba cry for her daughter night after night. It wrecked her knowing the precarious living situation Nereyda was in with Guadalupe.

After years in the U.S., Rosalba has become



a different woman. Being apart from Nereyda made Rosalba rethink her connection with her daughter. She's apologized and made amends with her three kids for how she treated them growing up.

Now, Rosalba lives with Nereyda in Missoula and takes care of her grandkids.

"I feel complete. I thank God that I'm reunited with my three kids. I feel like I have a really beautiful relationship with them," she said. "It's a beautiful thing."

When Nereyda lived with her mom in Las Vegas, her relationship with Rosalba was complicated. Her mom was very strict and, in some ways, a different person.

But she parented that way for a reason. Rosalba wanted to raise her daughter to be the tough, resilient and independent woman Nereyda is now.

"Despite the bad and tough character that I had with her, it was all for the good," Rosalba said. "Look at her now, she's accomplishing things."

Despite a difficult childhood, Nereyda still loves her mother. Even after Rosalba left, she provided a form of stability for Nereyda when her dad was absent. She was a big part of Nereyda's life growing up and says her tough upbringing forged her into the woman she is now.

## A CALL TO ACTION

Coming to the U.S. as a child and leaving behind the only place Nereyda knew was a strain. Despite being young, she experienced culture shock. Language and U.S. culture were barriers she encountered, along with anti-immigrant sentiments, but she found refuge with others who were Hispanic and Latino.

Being undocumented still meant living with a sense of fear. What would become of her if she was deported? Who would take care of her kids? What about her dreams?

Having the privilege to be protected under DACA meant the world to Nereyda. It had given her life certainty. But that changed in 2017.

As she cried on her couch on that September morning, Nereyda experienced a call-to-action. She wasn't going to stay silent as those in political power tried to dismantle the program that provided her with stability in a country where she'd fought so hard to live. Instead, she was going to fight for the rights of others like her.

"We give so much to society. Why would they want to take this away? Why this hate against us? Why would somebody want to attack us like this? We have families too," she said.

Now, she's raising her three kids, Cesar, 17, Daniel, 10, and 17-month-old Marissa, while becoming a voice for immigrants' rights in Montana with organizations that include Montanans for Immigrant Justice. There, she met fellow activist and friend Laura Folkwein.

Folkwein, who lives in Bozeman, quickly connected with Nereyda because of their shared values when she was the associate pastor at the United Church of Christ in Mis-

soula. Folkwein worked closely with Nereyda as co-chairs of the organization by advocating and helping Nereyda raise her voice. She said Nereyda's effectiveness as an advocate comes from her ability to connect with people.

"She was really the group's link to the immigrant community in Missoula and someone who was really willing to speak," Folkwein said. "She was connected to St. Anthony's Catholic Church, which is this mostly Spanish-speaking immigrant worshipping community."

When the two first met, Folkwein knew right away that Nereyda was a caring and compassionate leader who would be an incredible bridge builder, which she says carried through Nereyda's desire to become a nurse.

"She's a risk taker. Not everybody who is a DACA recipient, or who's part of a recent immigrant family, who's bilingual, has the desire to connect with non-immigrant communities," Folkwein said. "Not everybody who's a woman of color in the U.S. cares to connect with white folks, because oftentimes, we can do more harm than good. She's just such a powerful force for good, and she's so courageous in being willing to tell her own story, but she also does it to help others."

Meeting Nereyda also deepened Folkwein's desire to continue her path in advocacy. After moving across the Continental Divide, Folkwein became the pastor of Pilgrim United Church of Christ, where she continues to work with the immigrant community in the Bozeman-Belgrade area. Although they both parted ways, she says she aims to continue working with Nereyda whether it's through her church or the organization they were part of.

Since 2017, Nereyda has helped organize informational rights campaigns for immigrants across the state and has built a network with other immigrants' rights activists like Folkwein. Her Spanish has allowed her to connect and help others on a highly personal level.

Over the years she has met with U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in Washington, D.C., and has tried to work with Sen. Steve Daines' office, telling them to fight for the rights of those who live in the shadows of society. She's advocated for the DREAM Act, which would grant a pathway to permanent citizenship for undocumented immigrants, but has stalled in Congress.

Her years of activism have solidified her desire to stay an activist. She considers it her calling.

"I feel like God wanted me to be here," she said.

And, because of her status with DACA, Nereyda was finally able to achieve her goal — pursuing her nursing degree from Missoula College as a second semester student and working on her nursing clinicals at St. Patrick Hospital.

Being in Missoula College's nursing program has been a dream come true for Nereyda. The relationships she's been able to build with her program's professors and the practical experience she gets access to both at school and St. Pat's — that's meant so much.

Outside of her life as an activist, Nereyda



Linda Barnes, director of the nursing program at Missoula College, points out where to locate a vein as Nereyda prepares to perform an IV insertion on fellow classmate Jenny Krutilla during day one of a registered nurse skills lab. "This isn't the first time students have practiced doing IV insertions on each other, so it's definitely less intimidating for them," Barnes said. The lab provides students like Nereyda with hands-on experience practicing medical procedures such as IV starts, drawing and injecting medication and performing adult assessments on mannequins.



Missoula College classmates Franny Barber, middle, and Tayler Eubank, right, watch as Nereyda performs an IV insertion on a mannequin arm. Nereyda said the nursing labs provide a unique opportunity to bond with her classmates and professors as they work and help each other during each lab session.

has continued to connect with others through nursing. Over seven years, she has worked as a psychiatric technician at St. Pat's gaining real-world experience outside of nursing school and securing possible job opportunities at the hospital after graduation.

But her dreams don't just stop at a nursing degree. In the near future, Nereyda hopes to get into law school and become a senator working

to secure the rights of immigrants across the country.

For now, every lecture and nursing class and every relationship she's been able to build at Missoula College is something she deeply cherishes, especially in the state that has been home for more than 10 years, and she doesn't plan to stop dreaming.



# Students optimistic for spring semester

JOSH MOYAR

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Just weeks ago, students came back to the University in droves for the start of classes – and all those who didn't slip on the ice and die are gearing up for another semester in the crown jewel of Western Montana.

The beginning of the year means new classrooms, new faces and new class challenges. Often, that can be intimidating. But for many of the students we interviewed on the Oval this first week of classes, one emotion rang clear: Excitement to be back in Zootown.

"I'm actually excited to be back in class," junior Jack Schwaiger said. "It seems like a lot of the rules have relaxed a bit, and some of my classes are really interesting. But just in general, being back on campus is nice."

Though spring's orientation isn't as extravagant as fall's, there are still some students walking the Oval for the first time this semester.

Students like Philip Overtorf, who just arrived on campus from Huntington Beach, California, to study pre-nursing. Despite some first day jitters, he's feeling positive.

"I'm not really that nervous, in all honesty," Overtorf said. "I'm outside my comfort zone for sure, but good things always happen outside comfort zones."

University of Montana Chief of Staff Kelly Webster said having students on campus again after break is a good feeling. For the past month, the bell tower's ring echoed over the empty tundra of the Oval, but now it signals throngs of students scattering in every direction.

"I know this sounds cliché, but it's not the same without the students. It'll be so empty all of break and then everyone comes back and you just think, 'Oh yeah, that's why we're here.' Our work doesn't matter without them. Our lives now have meaning," Webster said, laughing.

Now campus life is back in swing, a host of activities are set for the next few months.

"We have Aloha Week, Kyiyo, the Black Solidarity Summit, Lambda Queer Prom and so many more great things," said Salena Beaumont Hill, director of inclusive excellence for student success. "Spring is full of student activities."

In addition, many events are happening within the University's individual colleges.

Sarah Grissom works with Accelerate Montana, a campus program dedicated to fostering the growth of Montana businesses. In tandem with the Gallagher College of Business, Accelerate Montana is prepping for spring events like the Ruffatto Business Startup Challenge on campus. The challenge takes place in the business school and has teams of students compete for up to \$50,000 to put toward their business idea.

"That's most of what's been on my mind," Grissom said.

Another big event to look forward to? The spring thaw and the green awakening of Missoula

"I really want to go out and explore more once the weather turns," freshman Hailey Savage said. "Last semester I spent too much time inside, but now that I'm done adjusting I'm ready to get out and meet new people."

"I'm just waiting for it to get warmer," another freshman, Sara Wolf, said. "I miss being out and about. Going downtown there's people everywhere, biking and swimming."

While some certainly do like it hot, there are plenty of snow junkies in Missoula. After all, Snowbowl Ski Resort is a short drive away.

"I'm pumped to get back on the snow a few more times before it gets too warm," sophomore journalism student Jane Rooney said.

Of course, it's hard to ignore the elephant in the room – a highly contagious new strain of a familiar foe, COVID-19's omicron variant.

"This omicron spike is a bit scary," Hill said. "I really worry about the mental and physical health of everyone. We're trying to have fun and be excited with this big thing looming over our heads. We're planning events that in all likelihood could be canceled at any moment."

In spite of all the uncertainty, Webster remains hopeful that students will continue to take care of one another. The semester is set to continue in person, so it's best to grab on tight and hang on.

"There are always bumps in the road," Webster said. "But we'll weather through them. We always do."

And if you're looking for advice for manifesting good vibes, just ask freshman Sofia Beers.

"I am going to have a good semester, not a bad semester," she said. "This semester will be a good one. That is my only expectation. It will be spot-on, perfect. There is nothing to be afraid of."

## ASK THE OVAL



**TOP LEFT:** As a person who enjoys manifesting good vibes, freshman Sofia Beers said she's expecting to make this semester her best so far.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Sophomore Brynn Letzig and freshmen Hailey Savage and Ashley Hernandez are looking forward to warmer weather and spring hiking this semester.

**TOP RIGHT:** University of Montana Chief of Staff Kelly Webster and Assistant Dean of the Honors College Katie Cordingley are happy to have students back on campus. Cordingley is excited to start her Questions for Undergraduates Exploring Social Topics class, where students will make proposals for bettering the city, some of which will be sent to the mayor of Missoula.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Hailing from Huntington Beach, California, incoming freshman Philip Overtorf is trying to adjust to the snow in his first semester on campus. **MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN**



# The Lumineers take a walk on the ‘Brightside’ of life

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On first listen, the Lumineers’s new album “Brightside” is the sunshine-filled fuckfest of most music artists’ pandemic releases.

But if you listen closer, you start to notice the gone-wrong images of tears, heartbreak, burning houses and a bridge built to get stranded on. It’s the kind of optimism that’s supposed to be reassuring, but not willfully ignorant of reality. For the most part, The Lumineers pull it off, even if its message gets convoluted by a repetitive and annoyingly optimistic chorus.

The first song of the nine-track album, “BRIGHTSIDE,” shows you exactly what kind of optimism you’re in for with a lifeline chorus of “I’ll be your brightside baby tonight.”

Unlike the Lumineers’ previous albums “Cleopatra” and “III” the instrumentation is both rock and acoustic. The track begins with drums — which is not a far departure from its typical projects — before an electric guitar-heavy rhythm takes hold, adding that extra

edge to the darker lyrical narrative of someone trying to commit themselves to a relationship in a drug-induced haze.

While diluted by the endless repetition of walking on the brightside of life, it’s these kinds of stories that reveal the darker side of an otherwise hopeful-sounding band. Unfortunately, “Brightside” does not completely capitalize on the triumphs of albums like “III,” which admirably sacrificed catchiness for some of the Lumineers best and darkest songwriting.

The Lumineers’s weakest moments emerge when the band ditches this magic-making tension for songs fixed with rose-tinted glasses.

“BIRTHDAY” is by far the worst culprit for being annoyingly cheerful. What starts as a somewhat compelling image of someone facing down a burning house with a garden hose in hand is eclipsed by 2 seemingly never-ending minutes of “It’s alright, it’s alright, it’s alright, it’s your birthday, dear” over a campy piano tune.

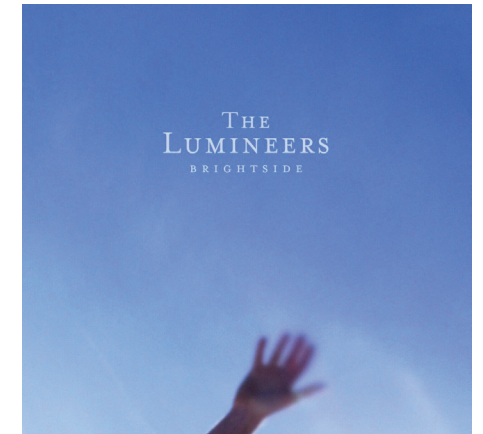
Other tracks like “Where We Are” follow a similar formula, with a lackadaisical chorus

repeating “Here we are (where we are) / I don’t know where we are (where we are) / But it will be okay.”

This album triumphs when it abandons these pointless assurances that everything will be alright for nuanced lyrics that are both mournful and hopeful. While the track “BIG SHOT” carries a relatively straightforward anthem, the strained vocals add genuine sadness to the simple but clear-eyed lyrics.

The 3-minute rock ‘n’ roll extravaganza “NEVER REALLY MINE” deviated to more chant-worthy, but intriguing lyrics like “say it once so all the neighbors can hear you/ who was never gonna play to lose.”

“Brightside” ends on an exciting note, flowing seamlessly from the more minimal “REMYNTON” to the epic final track “REPRISE.” The song in no way is a reprise of the album opener (thankfully) as it stands on its own with features like a church organ and syncopated piano sorely missed throughout the guitar and drum-dominant album. Rather than promising to be everyone else’s figurative sunshine, the Lumineers focuses on its own



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happy-ending where they head for “the bright side baby tonight.”

While “Brightside” at times can be blinding, the Lumineers establishes through its more experimental music that it’s not completely lost in the light.

# The new reboot of a horror classic will make you ‘Scream’!

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Do you like scary movies?

This past week, after more than 10 years, the “Scream” series released its fifth installment, a “requel,” as the characters in the movie call it. Not quite a reboot and not quite a sequel, 2022’s “Scream” picks up the plot years later, with some all-new characters and horror royalty.

But there are certain rules a horror requel must follow. Let’s see if “Scream” can cut it.

Rule number one: A horror requel HAS to use the original title of the film.

“Friday the 13th.” “Halloween.” “Child’s Play.” “Candyman.” No no no, this isn’t “Scream 5.” It’s “Scream.” Don’t mix that up again.

Result: Pass.

Rule number two: A horror requel needs to introduce exciting new characters while paying tribute to the franchise classics.

Melissa Barrera, budding actress known from recent hit “In the Heights,” joins the cast in her first stint as a scream queen. Her character Sam is revealed to be the daughter of Billy Loomis, the original killer from the classic film. This puts her at the center of another massacre, courtesy of the all-new Ghostface.

Barrera is joined by Jenna Ortega (“The Babysitter: Killer Queen”), Jack Quaid (“The Hunger Games”) and Dylan Minnette (“Thirteen Reasons Why”), along with a slew of other teenage actors that are sure to make you point to the screen and say “Hey! Weren’t they in that one thing?” While the new players have yet to gain the notoriety of the OG cast, they are charismatic enough to carry some weight. Luckily, some old friends stopped by to help out.

Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox and David Arquette all return to their iconic roles, making them the only actors to appear in all five “Scream” films. They jump back into the characters with ease. You know what they say: you never forget how to ride a bike, or take multiple stab wounds.

Result: Pass.

Rule number three: A horror requel needs to up the action, the mystery and most importantly, the gore.

Like many a horror franchise, the “Scream” films ran out of steam as time passed (I’m looking at you, “Scream 3”). The chase scenes felt tired. The whodunnits felt lazy. The kills were downright unforgivable. Luckily, this requel feels like a shot of tequila after the last two installments.

The characters are used perfectly in terms of making them come across as suspects. Throughout the film, your prediction for

who the killer is will flop back and forth again and again until you start suspecting yourself.

And what’s even better is that such a large cast means there is LOTS of room for casualties, a handful of which will undoubtedly become icons in the horror canon. A scene in a hospital midway through the movie is near perfect, and the final act will have your heart racing like you’re in the house with them.

Result: Pass.

Rule number four, the final rule: A horror requel needs to love the original.

For some reason, this is the hardest rule for these movies to follow. Iconic horror titles are often used at the center of money-grabbing schemes. It’s becoming harder to find horror films made with a little TLC.

But as soon as the film begins, and the familiar voice comes through the phone, you’ll know for a fact that these filmmakers know what they’re doing.

“Scream” is a movie worthy of its name, all culminating in a final “For Wes” before the credits roll, a dedication to Wes Craven, the late director behind iconic horror films like “A Nightmare on Elm Street,” “The Hills Have Eyes” and, of course, “Scream.” It was all for him.

Result: Pass, with flying colors.



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# Griz hockey's 'dynamic duo' reflect on a breakout season

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Axl Cluphf is one of the oldest members of UM's newly revived hockey team at 25. Sporting a wiry black beard and hair that tumbles far past his shoulders, he looks and speaks more like a mountain man than a student athlete.

"Playing in this league, I feel like an old man," he said.

Standing outside the Glacier Ice Rink between city league games, where he works as a scorekeeper with his brother Zane three days a week, Axl reflected on his first season playing outside the beer league hockey matches of his late teens.

"I hate to say it, because it sounds kind of bad, but for me this all feels like a joke that's gone too far," he quipped.

When Griz Hockey made its reappearance in 2021 after a decade-long absence, the Cluphf brothers — introduced during games as the team's "dynamic duo" — took the opportunity to continue playing the sport they grew up with at a higher level, though for different reasons.

Axl said when his brother was accepted to the University team after being recruited by Mike Anderson, Zane's former coach on the Missoula Junior Bruins and current co-head coach of the Grizzlies, he signed up without the expectation that he'd actually play.

"I found out I got accepted and said, 'Well, fuck, that wasn't supposed to happen,'" Axl joked. "Coach Mike didn't intend on having tryouts, because only one other person showed up. I tried to play shitty, but I guess I didn't play shitty enough."

Originally from Lake Stevens, Washington, the Cluphfs spent a large part of their childhood going on family trips to Western Montana to visit their grandparents in Lolo and stay in the area around Flathead Lake. After their grandfather passed away, the brothers moved to Lolo to live with their grandmother, Martha.

Zane, 20, said that after coming to Missoula he started to see hockey as a big potential opportunity for his future, rather than simply as a hobby.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do," he said. "When I first turned 18 I thought I didn't even want to go to college. I thought maybe I'd be a longshoreman in Seattle, hop into my dad's field of work and do that kind of stuff."

It wasn't until he was recruited for the Grizzlies that Zane was obligated to find a field of study at the University, a requirement for participating on the team. Both he and Axl now study precision machining at Missoula College.



Montana's Zane Cluphf (left) and brother Axl stand to the side during Griz Hockey practice and take in the action. Although they've played hockey since childhood, the 2021-2022 season is the first time the brothers have been on the ice together competitively. **TYE BROWN | MONTANA KAIMIN**

"I know Axl, he wants to do gunsmithing, that kind of stuff with it. And I'm honestly — I'll just take whatever I can get with that," Zane said.

Even while pursuing hockey on a junior team in Butte, through a season on the Missoula Junior Bruins, then to UM's team, Zane said he and his brother have always kept a tight connection with their grandmother, who bought the brothers their first pairs of skates. He remembers skating around the frozen pond behind her house during their winter trips to Montana.

Now, as their grandmother struggles with health issues and is unable to leave the house, the brothers said they continue to play with her in mind.

"I wanted to be there to help her," Zane said. "It's the least I could do for her with everything she's done for us."

Zane said he started playing when he was 4 or 5, and Axl at 9 or 10. "But none of our family

knew hockey, until they got a junior team in Everett [Washington]."

"Except for stick 'n puck, we never played together until now," Zane added. "Being on the same team together for the first time, it's a cool experience."

But even outside the "dynamic duo," Zane also sees the rest of the team as a tight family. "I know it's a pretty basic sport thing to say we're like a family, but it's true," he said. "Coming together as a team as quick as we did, and in the first year."

The brothers said the dynamic among the players is something unique to UM's team. A lot of the athletes, they said, knew each other before the Grizzly team was reinstated, playing with and against one another on various junior teams, like the Junior Bruins.

"Playing against each other, you really watched how that other team plays. Coming into this year, it felt like everyone just kind of knew how everyone else was going to play,"

Zane said.

"I think that's what every team is looking for," UM hockey co-head coach Anderson said. "I think for a first-year team that might be pretty unique to have that many guys who already know each other."

"At our level, in college, a lot of guys play three, four years in one place, so you form that group," Anderson continued. "Our challenge was doing that in a couple weeks before the season, and the guys having already played with each other really helps."

As Griz Hockey's first season back on the ice starts to wind up, the Cluphfs and the rest of the team are looking to the future of UM's newest blockbuster sport. "We only have one senior, so I think everybody is going to come back and play again," Zane said.

UM plays its last two games of the regular season Jan. 28 against the University of Providence at the Glacier Ice Rink, and Feb. 3 at the University of Providence.



# What the hell happened to basketball's student section?

JACK MARSHALL

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In the last three years at UM, the best student section at a Dahlberg Arena basketball game happened during a high school matchup.

While the 2019 Brawl of the Wild hoops game drew a good contingent of students, it was just as loud as the Hellgate and Sentinel High School student sections during the “golden goat” matchup. The crosstown attendance was impressive. In fact, UM students have only been able to match the high school games’ attendance once, despite having a much larger student body.

In the 2021-22 basketball season, the student section for men’s and women’s basketball at UM has been barren. So barren that now general admission tickets are sold to all fans — so a good chunk of the once-coveted section is now filled with all types of fans.

Some games have seen more students on the teams’ benches than in the actual student section.

The only consistency in the student section this year is the UM pep band, which always sports some riled up brass players who hurl verbal abuse at the visiting team while they shoot free throws. When the pep band is supported with packed stands, it adds a home court advantage — but when the student section is empty, it becomes more of a skeleton spirit crew.

Why isn’t the student section full? We can think of a few reasons.

First, there hasn’t been a home Cat/Griz basketball game since the 2019-20 season. This matchup usually sees a packed house — although the 2021 Cat/Griz volleyball matchup didn’t fill the student section like it did in 2019.

Another obstacle is certainly the pandemic. The last time there was a notable student section for a basketball game at UM was before the fateful spring of 2020. But the pandemic certainly hasn’t stopped students from filling out the football student section.

So where are the basketball attendees? Right now, it seems like UM students just care about UM Hockey more. Maybe it’s because beer is served right next to the student section in the Glacier Rink, or maybe it’s because hockey is just as violent as football. Either way, on any given day the Glacier Ice Rink student section is standing room only. The hockey team even



Fans in the student section cheer on their classmates as the Griz Hockey team faces off against Montana State at Glacier Ice Rink on Jan. 22, 2022. Hockey attendance has boomed, while anyone can now sit in the sparse student section for basketball. SHANNA MADISON | MONTANA KAIMIN

had to expand its seating this season.

This is all great for UM Hockey, which has found ways to market toward students — and recently had a cool “throwback night” — but it has also shown just how much interest students have lost in UM basketball.

It is crazy to think a club sports team has garnered more interest from students than syndicated sports programs that have both been to the NCAA tournament in the last decade.

Ten years ago was a nearly polar opposite scene at UM, as the men’s basketball team won a conference championship at home and students swarmed the court from a jam-packed student section. In a YouTube video from nine years ago titled “University of Montana Student Section Going WILD!” a mass of students can be seen jumping up and down to an electronic

dance song.

In current times, these scenes seem improbable, or like they were filmed in a different era. In Griz basketball terms, they were. This was back when the conference tournament was held at the best regular season team’s home gym.

Now the tournament is held in Boise regardless, so the only thing UM home games affect is seeding. It is easy to see why a student would rather be at a championship game rather than one that is just for regular season glory.

Maybe students will begin to fill Dahlberg down the stretch of the season. But for now, it seems as if the Hellgate-Sentinel will provide the most school spirit on a Griz basketball court. A section once dominated by rabid fans is now a safe haven for families and older fans who want a better view of the game.

## Journalism Job

### Radio Reporter

Yellowstone Public Radio needs a reporter to cover Montana’s legislative session in 2023. The position is sponsored by Report for America which puts up and coming journalism talent in local newsrooms to cover underserved communities. Journalism education and experience a must.

Study journalism and get a great job! Come see us in Don Anderson Hall 201 or [www.umd.edu/journalism](http://www.umd.edu/journalism)





# Griz Hockey gets win over MSU in throwback uniforms

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In throwback copper and gold jerseys, the Griz hockey team took down the Bobcats 4-2 at a sold-out Glacier Ice Rink on Saturday night.

The limited edition jerseys were a hit among the fans, and Monte and the Ice Cheerleaders had their own outfits to match. The Bobcats came out with an early 1-0 lead, but the Griz soon tied it with a goal by defenseman Dylan Ferreira. The Griz and the Cats were aggressive, per usual, and a small tussle broke out among some players, putting two Griz players and a Bobcat in the penalty box. Shortly after returning to full strength, UM's Cayce Balk scored off a rebounded shot, putting the Griz ahead. This lead didn't last, and the Cats tied it at 2 points toward the end of the second period.

The Griz came out hot to start in the third quarter, going up 3-2 on another goal from Ferreira. The Bobcats couldn't get anything going for the rest of the game, and the Griz's Gus Hendrickson scored again to solidify the UM win, 4-2.

Goalie and Missoula native Kevin Moore got the win for the night.

Griz hockey's senior night and last home game is Friday, Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. against the University of Providence.

RIGHT: Montana's Cayce Balk races for the puck, leaving Montana State's defense behind on the ice during a hockey match between the Griz and Montana State at Glacier Ice Rink Jan. 22.

MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN



Goalie Kevin Moore guards the net for Montana as the Bobcat offense tries to flip-shot the puck from the rear into the net. MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN



Montana's Dylan Ferreira celebrates after scoring his second goal of the night. MADDIE CRANDALL | MONTANA KAIMIN