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Montana Kaimin, September 15, 2022

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MONTANA KAIMIN

TAKING THE REINS

**Provost Mahdavi starts
with big changes**

**Story by
Anna Henning**



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Cover photo by Andy Mephram

September 15, 2022 | Volume 125 | Issue No. 3



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 3 EP 3



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Anti-trans ruling will only hurt Montana

The state health department ruled against transgender Montanans’ freedom for accurate gender identity last week.

The Department of Public Health and Human Services banned transgender people from updating their gender on their birth certificates, with the exception of changing a data entry error or if a person’s sex is “proven to be incorrect” by genetic testing.

Montana now has some of the most restrictive laws against LGBTQ+ people in the United States, and the ruling became part of an all-too-familiar trend.

As recently as 2020, changing someone’s gender came from the county level. All someone had to do to change their gender was submit a request to their local health department and follow up with local court clerks.

Months ago, the state added an emergency rule that barred anyone from changing their birth certificate. Now, the state extended that rule in perpetuity.

This rule circumvented a judge’s decision to temporarily block a similar, but less strict law. Senate Bill 280, which passed in spring 2021, required people to have proof of surgery and a court order to change sex on a birth certificate.

The judge cautioned the public against the law, saying a difference in a person’s gender identity and their legal birth certificate “may even subject them to violence” in certain situations, according to the court order. The enjoined case will go back to trial beginning next week.

Montana laws targeting LGBTQ+ people are not new. They often come from state-elected representatives. Gov. Greg Gianforte signed House Bill 112 into law last May, which banned transgender women from participating in school sports.

The legislature broadly targeted LGBTQ+ content in schools in Senate Bill 99, which requires parents to opt their children into any sex education, including gender identity and sexual orientation.

Montana is now one of only four states that bans chosen gender marker changes, according to the Movement Advancement Project. This rule change is against the will of Montana citizens.

The court system already temporarily blocked a less strict version of the policy, and more than 100 people testified against the rule change at its public hearing. Only one person showed up in support.

Nobody voted on this new ruling. Rather, the government took it into its own hands to decide how people can make decisions about themselves.

This policy will subject transgender people to confusion and potential danger at their doctor visits. This policy hurts transgender interactions with government officials because their documents mismatch their identities.

One in five Gen Z adults identified as LGBTQ+ in 2022, up from 11% in 2017, according to Gallup polling. Diverse sexual orientations and gender identities are more socially accepted among our peers than in previous generations. More people can be open with their identities.

But Montana is not fostering such an environment with its statewide politics. A 2022 study by the Journal of Interpersonal Violence found 82% of transgender people had suicidal thoughts. Around 85% reported negative mental health consequences from anti-trans legislation in the last year.

The DPHHS said in response to commenters’ concerns during a public hearing on the change that transgender concerns were not based on “scientific evidence.”

State officials and legislators have opted to restrict LGBTQ+ people rather than understand their perspectives in lawmaking, which particularly damages our generation.

The Kaimin believes this policy, the latest addition to a line of poor LGBTQ+ policies passed in the state Legislature, makes it evident that Montana is actively discriminating against a vital part of its youngest generation.

If state officials wish to keep youth in the state, they must consider LGBTQ+ individuals crucial for Montana’s growth and push back against these policies that damage their lives.

— Emily Tschetter, News Editor

Like it? Hate it? Let us know.
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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

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

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Bouncin’ bean bags

Students Tatum McNamara and Paulina Thompson race each other against the pull of a bungee cord with beanbags in hand to see who can stick them on the velcro pad first on an inflatable game at the Welcome Feast on Sept. 9. The annual feast included rows of tables with student groups and clubs for new students to learn about. **RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

UM to restructure colleges, Missoula County names first pet commissioner, bridge project delayed

EMILY TSCHETTER

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UM TO RESTRUCTURE ITS COLLEGES WITHIN NEXT YEAR

The University of Montana's president and provost announced an "academic renewal plan" on Sept. 9 that could restructure UM's existing schools into five colleges.

The proposed plan would align new colleges under the pillars of "understanding, building, conserving and belonging." It will take about a year to implement, according to Provost Pardis Mahdavi.

The College of Arts and Media is slated to join the College of Business and the computer science department. Sustainability, earth system science and natural resource management will be in one college.

Global policy studies, psychology, social sciences and physical and mathematical sciences will also become one college. Physiology, pharmacy, social work, speech, medicine, public health, speech and physical therapy will be grouped together.

The law school and public administration department will stay under one roof. The Davidson Honors College, Missoula and Bitterroot Colleges, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education, the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library and the Franke Global Leadership Initiative were untouched in this iteration of the restructure.

The plan's details are expected to change with student, staff and faculty feedback over the coming months. Read more about the proposed restructuring and how it will affect UM on the Kaimin's website.

MISSOULA COUNTY NAMES PET COMMISSIONER

Missoula County elected Gidge the Tri-pawd, a three-legged border collie, as its first ever pet commissioner last week.

Gidge, who serves as a therapy dog for students at UM, beat out 59 other pet entries that included cats, dogs, a frog, cow, chicken and chinchilla. He lost his right front leg as a puppy and was abandoned at one year old, according to his owner Katie Connelly.

Connelly said Gidge has often helped other dog owners make decisions when their pets face health issues threatening

one of their legs. Connelly hopes he can show tripods have happy lives with only three legs.

Gidge was the last dog at the Missoula County Animal Control in 2020 when Connelly picked him up. Now she enjoys taking him hiking, rafting on the Clark Fork and Bitterroot rivers and playing at local parks.

Gidge won with 174 votes on Missoula County Voice, the county's digital platform to gather community feedback. The county's three human commissioners will honor Gidge at its Oct. 6 public meeting.

MISSOULA BRIDGE PROJECT DELAYED AGAIN

As the Beartracks Bridge on Higgins Avenue continues to face construction delays, KPAX reported last week that both sides of the bridge are now slated to open in early November.

The project to rehabilitate the bridge and create more pedestrian space began in 2020. The Montana Department of Transportation said material and labor shortages are contributing to further delays.

The joint project run by MDT and Sletten Construction contractor has cost more than \$18 million.

Pedestrian and bicycle traffic will stay open on both ends of the bridge, but road repairs will temporarily stop northbound traffic before the project is complete.

According to MDT engineering project manager Matt Straub, there will be single-lane southbound traffic and northbound traffic will go through Madison Street.

Missoula County and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will hold a dedication ceremony on Oct. 10 in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

MONTANA WORKFORCE REPORT SHOWS EMPLOYMENT GROWTH, UNFILLED JOBS

The Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Labor Day report showed more jobs added last year, but businesses are still struggling to fill pre-pandemic positions. DLI reported the most added jobs in a single year ever while the housing crisis boomed and many positions remain open.

Montana added almost 20,000 jobs in 2021 and statewide unemployment fell to just 2.3%. The labor department listed business services, construction and utilities as the strongest job growth sectors.

Recreation, hotels and restaurants had the greatest single-year growth of any industry, but still have 1,000 less jobs since before the pandemic.

The report also showed more than 20,000 Montana employees quit their jobs each month during the second half of 2021. Although businesses raised average wages by 5.9% to counter rising inflation, KPAX reported real wages – adjusted for inflation – grew only by 1.3%.

The report said housing affordability is a major factor in workers' struggles with buying power. Home prices rose by 44.3% in Montana over the last two years, compared with 34.3% nationally.

POLICE BLOTTER

CAVEN WADE

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With students settling into the new school year and Griz football getting underway, University of Montana Police had a hectic second week of school. Here are five incidents from Sept. 1 to Sept. 8.

SATURDAY 9/3: ROCKY ROMANCE

UMPD responded to an assault in parking lot P following the first football game. UMPD found two people arguing over a girlfriend when they arrived...trouble in paradise. UMPD arrested one and gave the other a citation. A witness was revealed to have a warrant that led to his arrest as well. Pretty bold of him to stick around and watch the drama unfold with the possibility of going to jail.

SUNDAY 9/4: JUST A SCRATCH

On Sept. 4, UMPD responded to a hit and run in parking lot H. It was a simple fender bender which occurs on campus frequently. The car's owner gave UMPD a note when they arrived, which turned out to have no real contact information. There is currently no identified suspect. We're sure the missing bumper car's insurance company, if they have one, is grinning ear to ear right now.

MONDAY 9/5: WHERE'S MY UBER?

UMPD responded to an online scam attempt. An Uber driver arrived on campus but couldn't locate the customer. After failing to find the person, they received an email that appeared to be from Uber corporate filing a complaint. The complaint asked for photos of the driver's license and debit cards. The driver had impressive media literacy and didn't send any documents over, so the case was closed with no suspect.

TUESDAY 9/6: SEAT STOLEN

A resident assistant filed a report with UMPD that a chair from the showers went missing in Jesse Hall. There is currently no suspect, so be on the lookout for someone that has an old shower chair.

WEDNESDAY 9/7: WINDY WHIP

UMPD responded to a report that an unknown person cut a hole into the soft top of a Jeep Wrangler. Nothing was reported stolen, but damage to the back windshield and a hole in the soft top classified this as criminal mischief. The suspect is still at large and may attempt to turn another person's car into a convertible.

LOOKING FOR A JOB AND LOVE TO WORK WITH KIDS?

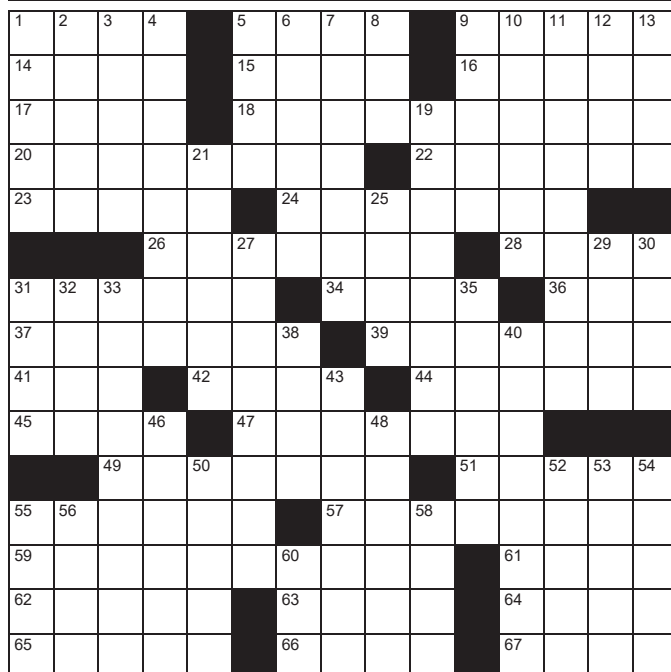
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The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Declines
- 5 Pack away
- 9 Bell sound
- 14 Unappealing food
- 15 Horne of "Stormy Weather"
- 16 Pooh's passion
- 17 Maneuverable, at sea
- 18 Try the patience of
- 20 Retailers' battle
- 22 Gave out
- 23 Liable to lose it
- 24 Took for oneself
- 26 Clear up
- 28 Takes a load off
- 31 Small bump
- 34 Artificial bait
- 36 Sis's sib
- 37 Recluse
- 39 Sadly sentimental
- 41 WWII female
- 42 Judi Dench title
- 44 Spine-tingling
- 45 Farm feed
- 47 Walloped
- 49 Project glowingly
- 51 Rifle recoils
- 55 Expressed out loud
- 57 Tuna variety
- 59 Hard to miss
- 61 In a bit
- 62 Performance place
- 63 Trellis piece
- 64 "Dent" anagram
- 65 Bicycle part
- 66 His partner
- 67 Storm centers

DOWN

- 1 Pharaoh's land
- 2 Play loudly
- 3 Bullwinkle foe
- 4 Broad range
- 5 Large amount
- 6 Gas brand since 1902
- 7 Hot, in Vegas
- 8 Is no longer
- 9 Treasure holder
- 10 Belmont beasts
- 11 Too low to hear
- 12 Ration (out)
- 13 Gave the once-over
- 19 Smoker's accessory holder
- 21 Peeper protector
- 25 Female gamete
- 27 Save for later
- 29 Field follower
- 30 Big name in electronics
- 31 MSNBC offering
- 32 Like some exams
- 33 Wearing medals
- 35 Golden State motto
- 38 Thompson of "Love Actually"
- 40 Devote
- 43 Fit to consume
- 46 Sign of age
- 48 Place for wine
- 50 Stick-on
- 52 NY's _____ Island
- 53 Norwegian currency
- 54 Puts in the mail
- 55 Clothing closure
- 56 Skedaddled
- 58 "All _____ are off!"
- 60 Blonde shade

Answers to Previous Crossword:

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

Block-o-scope

ANDY TALLMAN

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The Kaimin horoscope often assumes we're all having wild sex in "Thotumn," which Urban Dictionary defines as a continuation of hot girl summer. But that awkward, forced proximity with other people's copulation is a far more common experience, especially since our broke asses all have to live with other people. So what should you do next time you find your roommate smashing in the next room? Astrology has the answers.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22):

You like to give people the benefit of the doubt. Your roommate probably didn't know you were home. So go ahead and do the dishes really loudly to let them know you're in, then make a schedule of when you'll be out so they know when it's safe! Good job, Virgo.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22):

By the time you decide on the perfect, hilarious, vengeful course of action, it's already over. The pump has dumped. You'll open your door just in time to see the hickey-marked culprit pretending like they didn't just get a minute and a half of mediocre stroke game.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 22):

This is the third time this week your roommate and his girlfriend are over. You're sick of it. Fortunately, you weasel your way into someone's private Instagram to see your roommate's partner getting cozy with another person at the Kappa Kappa Pogchamp party. You're showing him tomorrow. You may be forced to listen to the rest of their bang sesh, but you've won the war.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21):

Oh, your roommate is absolutely trying to flex on you. You cannot let him win. You need a competing booty call. Grab someone from...Tinder? YikYak? Your statistics study groupchat? Where do you people even find each other, anyway?

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19):

It's time for a test of wills. Yes, they're horny now, but how hard will they be after you've blasted your patented Anti-Sex Playlist through the walls? You're about to put his dick in a psychological "Saw" trap, you know, like from the movie "Saw." YMCA, Cotton Eye Joe, My Heart Will Go On, the opening theme from "Up." Live or die, the choice is theirs.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18):

It's uncomfortable to sleep with headphones in while you play nature sounds, and you don't have a window fan. You're looking for a new source of white noise, and this'll do just fine. Just listen as you go to bed like the little pervert you are.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20):

Your college-quality vodka is sounding pretty great right now. When you're drunk, awkward situations just seem funny. Now you have a new problem: You have a lofted bed and you forgot how to move your feet about two shots ago.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19):

You don't have to take this shit in your own house. You pay rent. You give up your hard-earned cash from



MAKAYLA O'NEIL | MONTANA KAIMIN

your part-time job to buy a living space. You don't have to listen to your roommate's fifth girlfriend of the semester pretend he's not just trying to please himself. Tell them to shut the hell up.

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20):

You can just leave! You've been meaning to hike the "M" for a bit anyway, and this is the perfect opportunity. Plus it gives you the opportunity to slam the door and make Brad acutely aware that you've heard his sex playlist. Hopefully you can leave behind his moaning on the mountain.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20):

Where others see adversity, you see opportunity. What others may see as the mortifying ordeal of next-door sex, you see as the day you're gonna check "have a threesome" off your bucket list. Break out the lingerie and make your living situation irreversibly awkward.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22):

Let's be real: you're overdue for an overdramatic mental breakdown you can post on social media. The groupchat needs to know that your roommate is shaggin' — with disregard for your mental health — but only in vague cry-typing. Your Instagram story and meticulously maintained Tumblr blog needs to know. Bonus: Your crying will kill the mood!

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22):

You aren't a coward like Cancer. You're not just gonna vent your feelings on social media. You're gonna take a video of your long-suffering expression, soundtracked by background groans, and post it to your Snapchat story. Keep updating with a play-by-play and watch as the "LMAOOOOO"s flood in.

UMPD adds anti-opioid overdose spray to arsenal after years of debate

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As fentanyl prevalence rises and opioid overdoses become more common across the country, the University of Montana Police Department has added anti-opioid overdose spray to its lineup of response gear.

It's something UMPD Chief Brad Giffin hopes he never has to use, but like any other emergency equipment, he'd rather be over-prepared than let someone die.

"You'd always rather be safe than sorry," Giffin said. "If it makes a difference in even one instance, then it was worth it."

Montana has seen a sudden boom in overdose deaths over the past few years. An entire decade's worth of progress was reversed, a Department of Public Health and Human Services report said, and it's in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As people isolated in 2020, they had less access to friends, treatment and services. Between 2019 and 2020, unintentional drug overdoses in Montana increased by 39%, while no change in intentional drug overdoses was seen. Drug overdose was the fourth leading cause of death in Montana.

Fentanyl, a powerful synthetic opioid developed for cancer patients, has skyrocketed its presence in Montana.

"Through June 30, Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHID-TA) task forces seized 111,611 fentanyl dosage units in Montana," the Montana Department of Justice announced mid-August.

In 2021, the same task force seized 60,577 doses. In 2020, it was 6,663 doses. In 2019, it was 1,900 doses.

The sharp incline inspired the calls for UMPD to carry Narcan.

The anti-overdose spray is a branded version of Naloxone. Naloxone can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose by blocking the receptors that opioids latch onto within the brain, the National Institute on Drug Abuse explains on its website.

Naloxone does not harm sober people unless they are allergic to the medicine, Giffin said. However, people overdosing on opioids can experience sudden symptoms of withdrawal, such as rapid heart rate, nausea and tremors, within minutes of taking Naloxone, NIDA said. Even if the overdosing person doesn't experience withdrawal, bystanders are advised to make sure their breathing doesn't slow or

stop. The two hours after Naloxone has been given are critical, which is also why NIDA advises bystanders call 911 immediately after using Naloxone.

Naloxone had been only in injection form since the 1970s. In late 2015, when the FDA approved Narcan's nasal spray approach. With the new tool, people could provide life-saving medicine with less preparation and training.

If the overdosing person doesn't have any other health conditions, Narcan can reverse an overdose for around 30 minutes, Giffin said, which can mean the difference between life and death.

"It only takes [emergency medical services] around three minutes to get here," Giffin said. "But seconds count."

In previous years, UMPD would've waited for EMS to give Narcan to an overdosing person, Giffin said, and officers would've been forbidden from using it. Unless they've received explicit training and approval, an officer using emergency equipment out of turn could be considered a liability.

Now, UMPD officers who've been certified will carry two doses of the nasal spray beginning this week, Giffin said. They aren't charged for refills, and getting more Narcan is as simple as reapplying for doses after they've been used or expired. Because it's through a larger, state-wide program, UMPD isn't charged anything for the Narcan. Students can get Narcan through the Open Aid Alliance or any carrying pharmacy in Montana with insurance.

While the decision to carry Narcan is relatively recent, UMPD has considered anti-overdose measures for more than two years. It was a tricky decision at first, Giffin said. The storage temperatures Narcan needs to stay safe was hard to accomplish in Missoula. Simply put, Narcan couldn't be safely left in a car because it would get too cold or hot most of the year.

Representatives from UM's branch of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, an international non-profit, say they've fought for UMPD to take on Narcan for years.

But the tipping point seemed to be national trends and success in UMPD's city and county law enforcement counterparts.

"We've learned from other agencies what worked for them and what didn't work for them," Giffin said. "We didn't want to implement a program that was doomed to fail. They haven't really had any bad experiences with it, so that encouraged us to move forward with our program."



ABOVE: Guests were given free two-packs of NARCAN nasal spray at a city informational session on Aug. 31. The boxes contain explicit directions in the event that one finds someone who has overdosed and wants to administer aid.

RIGHT: Leah Fitch-Brody, from the Missoula City-County Health Department, working with the Substance Use Disorder Prevention program, spoke to Missoula residents on International Overdose Awareness day after a Butte teen recently overdosed.

NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

Giffin said he's worried about what's coming for use trends. Sightings of fentanyl and carfentanyl, a synthetic opioid used to tranquilize large animals, have been on the rise. Only a pinprick of carfentanyl is enough to topple a fully grown man. Giffin doesn't see it being needed for University students in particular, but the climbing numbers were enough to sway UMPD.

Officer certification involves educational videos, an online class and a physical demonstration to prove officers know how to give the medicine, and most officers are close to being fully trained.

Some of the videos showed footage of police officers after being exposed to opioids, where many cops began to stumble and collapse within minutes of contact. It's an added benefit to carrying Narcan; if a fellow officer needs help, UMPD will be prepared.

Giffin doesn't think he'll need to use the



Narcan that often. Out in the city, he said he's certain he'd need it every week, but UMPD doesn't see opioid overdoses that often.

Giffin recalls last semester's Kyiyo Pow Wow Celebration when two people needed AEDs. If UMPD had decided it wasn't worth keeping AEDs because they weren't needed often, those two people could have died, Giffin said.

Giffin hopes Narcan will be like that; if someone is overdosing, UMPD can help immediately. And if UMPD never needs to use the Narcan, Giffin said he certainly doesn't mind either.

"I think there's always a possibility we're going to use it," Giffin said. "I just don't think there's going to be a big demand for it. But it's like anything else: if you really, really need it and you don't have it, you can't do anything."

UM's new parking director faces many of challenges

ANDY TALLMAN

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For 25 years, he got Air Force troops and material from point A to point B as a transport and logistics officer. Then, he handled patient and employee transportation for a cancer center in Houston. Now, Bill Donovan faces his biggest challenge yet: making University of Montana parking a tolerable experience.

UM has never had a parking director, but with a larger budget and student body, it decided to create a parking department and lighten the University of Montana Police load to meet high student demand.

Donovan applied for the position after seeing it on the Campus Parking and Transportation Association website.

"It was the opportunity to start as the first parking director for a university, and that really intrigued me," Donovan said.

Until now, parking at UM has been handled by UMPD. Prior to this year, Bill Donovan was the parking director at the University of North Texas. He chose to move up to UM for the opportunity to start a parking department from scratch.

This year has been a particularly challenging one for parking at UM, but most people who drive to campus know that already. Higher enrollment, as President Seth Bodnar said in an address to faculty on Sept. 9, and several infrastructure projects means fewer lots are up for grabs.

More students means new opportunities for the University through students' tuition, but also more logistical challenges. UM has hired more project managers recently, so every major construction project has its own manager to address the inconveniences.

"This is a symptom of growing pain at the University," UM director of strategic communications Dave Kuntz said. "We have more students on campus than we've had in a number of years."

Some suspect that UM has sold more permits than spaces this year. Kuntz said he'd guess that's the reality, but added that's not necessarily a bad thing — in fact, in his view, it's normal.

"Most parking departments at most universities are going to have an oversell at certain lots," Donovan said.

The reason, he explained, is turnover. People park on campus for a variety of days of the week and hours, so if UM only sold as many permits as there were spots, many spots would be left empty. According to the University of Houston, parking depart-

ments try to sell 1.8 to 2 permits for every space.

Determining exactly how many permits to sell to make sure people can find parking while leaving no resources unused is a delicate game of Tetris — and it's a game UM wants a parking director to play.

If it's any consolation, parking troubles at UM are nothing new and an eternal lack of space isn't unique to this year, according to Kuntz.

Donovan said students' parking woes are also not unique to UM, which makes sense in his eyes. If UM was the only place in the world where parking was a challenge, he said he wouldn't have any prior job experience.

Kuntz said that along with hiring Donovan, the University is looking at several ways to help alleviate the problem. It's also looking at buying land from Montana Rail Link for more parking space, and Kuntz said that there has been some talk of adding a parking garage, though these ideas are still in very early stages and locations haven't been nailed down. Additionally, the University will restore spaces once each construction project wraps up.

Donovan argued students' parking troubles might not just be a case of space shortage either.

"Typically it's not a parking inventory problem, it's a convenience problem," Donovan said. In his experience, people don't go looking for spaces in farther lots — they want spots in the close, convenient lots that won't make them walk 10 minutes to class. "One of the things I want to focus on is educating the student body on the options available to them."

Driving isn't the only way to get to campus — there's biking and the bus. Park and Ride lots offer students the option of parking in a more distant, less crowded lot and then taking UDASH to campus. But the University's transportation website doesn't have any information on the location of the Park and Ride lots. In a recent email, UM urged students to take alternate transportation to campus instead of driving.

Donovan's only been in Missoula since Aug. 27. When the Kaimin interviewed him on Sept. 7, it was his second day on the job.

"I know it's a challenge, I know that people are somewhat frustrated, but I can assure folks that I will be very customer focused, I will be very keen on how best to manage parking to make it more efficient, more customer-friendly, and just an overall better parking experience," Donovan said.



Bill Donovan, UM's new parking director, talks about student frustrations on his second day of work at UM. NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN

TAKING THE REINS

New provost begins restructure of UM

Story by
Anna Henning



Pardis Mahdavi and her dog Bella greet Caspian before taking him to get saddled up at Harmony Stables on Sept. 2.

ANDY MEPHAM | MONTANA KAIMIN

PARDIS MAHDAVI walked through a large field, rope halter in hand, past some grazing horses. The sun radiated down into the Rattlesnake valley on a hot Friday afternoon, and she was done with work for the day.

With the “M” in the distance, she shifted her mind from running the academic side of the University of Montana to her horse.

Caspian, a 6-year-old Missouri Fox Trotter, looked up from grazing, recognized her and approached her warmly. He has a golden brown coat with a tan mane and tail and a white streak down his nose. She held his nose and whispered words to him before slipping the rope halter over his head.

Mahdavi, 44, is the new provost for UM. She is the first permanent provost in two years, hired last spring from Arizona State University where she was the dean of social sciences, a division much larger than UM. The provost job is UM’s second-highest ranking office.

“I feel so lucky to have this job in this beautiful town where I can ride my horse more and make new changes,” Mahdavi said.

In the new role, she oversees UM’s 11 academic colleges and deans, and other academic programs like the Franke Global Leadership Initiative. She is the boss of the deans and the faculty.

It also means she can shape how the University’s academics are organized. And on that front, Mahdavi has been busy.

EDUCATION FIRST

Mahdavi, who often labels herself a proud Iranian-American, fled her home with her parents during the Iranian Revolution in the late 1970s. She’s a prolific writer and has published six books, most of which focus on human trafficking and the stories of migrants.

She was set to publish a seventh, a memoir that details how her daughter was taken to Iran against Mahdavi’s will and how underground networks of women helped Mahdavi get her out. Proof copies went out, but Publisher’s Weekly reported in early August the book was “quietly canceled” at the author’s request, citing “personal safety reasons.” Mahdavi told the Montana Kaimin, “The timing wasn’t right for me.”

The publisher will reportedly work with Mahdavi on another non-academic book.

At UM, Mahdavi says she wants to use her years of experience as an author, leader and horsewoman to bring a new perspective to UM. Less than four months into her new role, she has taken on the ambitious task of restructuring all the colleges and schools at the University.

Most schools will be channeled into five colleges, grouping some larger programs like the College of Business and the College of Arts and Media. As reported earlier

by the Kaimin, the colleges are loosely grouped under the titles “understanding, building, conserving and healing.”

While the changes aren’t final, they represent the largest academic shift since 2018, except this time Mahdavi says the changes are not tied to budget cuts.

Mahdavi says her biggest goal as provost is to make UM more collaborative. For students, she wants to make online elements such as paying tuition and virtual classes easier to navigate and access.

For faculty, she’s proposed making it easier for them to teach and be hired in more than one discipline. She hopes that her changes will bring more stature to the University and continue its new positive enrollment trend.

Education has always been an important part of Mahdavi’s life. After fleeing Iran, her family settled in Minneapolis, Minnesota. However, her father decided to relocate the family after a note saying “Burn this house, terrorists live here” appeared on their front door.

In 1984, Mahdavi’s family moved to San Diego, California. During that move, Mahdavi said her father told her something that shaped the rest of her life.

“I remember my father saying, ‘People can take everything from you,’” Mahdavi said. “They can take your home, they can take your belongings, they can even take your country. But the one thing no one can ever take from you is your education.”

As an undergrad, she studied at Occidental College, and she earned multiple advanced degrees at Columbia University, including a doctorate.

She worked as a professor and department chair at Pomona College and has held other academic leadership positions at the University of Denver and ASU. In addition to human trafficking, her research and writings have focused on labor issues, feminism, gender and sexuality.

“I want to help others get that which can never be taken away from them — their education,” Mahdavi said.

‘MONTANA CHOSE ME’

Before becoming a finalist for the provost job, Mahdavi had been interested in the state of Montana.

In Arizona, she said, it gets too hot to ride horses in the summer. Mahdavi felt envious of Montana’s vibrant horse culture and more months of riding time during the year. Montana’s plentiful trails and mountain spaces were enticing.

Then she got the call about moving forward in the UM hiring process.

“I always say that Montana chose me,” Mahdavi said. “I was just thinking about it and then I got the call.”

At ASU, she managed roughly 800 faculty members and 30,000 students. UM’s total



University of Montana Provost Pardis Mahdavi proposes her plan to restructure the University under four new pillars to UM’s faculty in the UC Ballroom on Sept. 9. The new pillars are “understanding, building, conserving and healing,” according to Mahdavi. **RIDLEY HUDSON | MONTANA KAIMIN**

enrollment hovers around 10,000. But Mahdavi was ready for a new city and new projects to work on.

“When I got the call I tried to play it cool, but I was doing cartwheels inside,” Mahdavi said. She said she felt honored to get the job.

Ahead of moving to Missoula, Mahdavi visited several times. She felt a lot of anticipation to transition to a new space. Finding a house was a struggle, even for the provost.

“It was an absolute bidding war,” friend Yasmin Michael said. “She’d immediately get outbid after making an offer. It was crazy and so stressful.”

Michael, a close friend of Mahdavi’s in Arizona, recently visited Missoula to see Mahdavi’s house, campus and a football game. Mahdavi bought a house over the summer in the Lower Rattlesnake, according to property records.

With President Seth Bodnar hinting ahead of an official announcement that student enrollment is up again this fall — and UM recently gaining Research 1 status — Mahdavi said this is a great time to get involved with the University. She said the faculty have been welcoming and positive so far.

Mahdavi described her role as the provost like “being an epistemological architect.” Her goals are to break down administrative barriers for students and make education more accessible to different types of learners.

“I don’t want to measure a University by who it excludes, but who it includes,” she said.

As a woman of color, Mahdavi said she saw fewer people who looked like her the more she pursued higher education. She double-majored in dance and diplomacy and minored in French for her undergraduate degree at Occidental in Los Angeles.

She earned a master’s of international affairs, an MA in anthropology and a PhD in medical anthropology at Columbia in New York.

Mahdavi said it would have made a big difference to her as a student if she saw a woman of color in leadership while she was completing her higher education. For more people of color and women to complete higher education, she said it needs more diverse leadership.

Mahdavi has often found that people didn’t expect her to be in a leadership position in academics.

“People would say, ‘Oh, where’s Dean Mahdavi?’ and I’d say, ‘Well, I am Dean Mahdavi,’” she said. “They would say, ‘Oh, you don’t look like a dean,’ maybe because they’re expecting a white male.”

REBIRTH OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

As provost, Mahdavi is working on changing the college group structure and improving online learning as her two main projects.

She says she hopes the new college structure will be completed by the fall of 2023. The proposed new colleges will pair



ABOVE: Mahdavi tightens the saddle on Caspian at Harmony Stables.

LEFT: Mahdavi trots Caspian around the arena, a regular part of her after-work routine. She's been riding for 24 years.

ANDY MEPHAM | MONTANA KAIMIN

different fields together to encourage interdisciplinary study.

Bodnar told the Kaimin that this proposal didn't emerge from thin air. He said administrators have talked about this kind of change for years. He intended that Mahdavi would quickly work on this project after being hired.

In meetings with faculty and staff, she's mentioned reading volumes detailing discussions around restructuring UM, including the recommendations of what came to be known as APASP, Academic Program and Administrative Prioritization, which grew out of UM's historic drop in enrollment and wasn't fully implemented.

"She's an accomplished scholar and a very successful faculty member," Bodnar said. "She comes in with a level of credibility and expertise that I think is very important to this process."

Mahdavi said the restructure will remove administrative and bureaucratic barriers to students' learning. She said she wants to see students study what they want to without needing to double or triple major.

Additionally, budgeting will naturally shift as the colleges are changed because the number of colleges will be reduced from 11 to five. Bodnar said that no budget

cuts will take place.

"I've been pretty clear that the budget model is going to follow the academic enterprise, not the other way around," Mahdavi said.

To learn more about the existing colleges, Mahdavi said she attended every college's faculty retreat in the past few weeks. She wanted to physically meet faculty members and discuss their personal needs.

Mahdavi said she wants to prevent faculty burnout by increasing collaboration and support during these shifts.

"It takes time for any leader to get to know an organization," Bodnar said. "One of the things I appreciate about Provost Mahdavi is she's taken the time to study our history to learn about the strengths we have here."

Mahdavi said this project is a collaboration with the president, executive leadership team, college deans and faculty senate. Changes are being made along the way based on faculty and student feedback.

In the long term, Mahdavi hopes to add new degree programs like criminology and new interdisciplinary collaborations, but that will likely take more time.

Mahdavi's other project is improving online studies to give students better access

to education. She says she wants the transition between attending classes on campus and completing a semester online to be easier for students who may need to be out of state for personal reasons.

She also supports making internships available in a completely virtual setting.

"I want [students] to not have to make the really difficult choice between continuing their studies and needing to do something like caring for a family member," Mahdavi said. "I want them to be able to flip modalities and be an online student for a year so they don't fall behind and can still graduate with their classmates."

LIVING IN A STORYTELLER'S TOWN

Mahdavi said she always starts her day with writing. In Missoula, Mahdavi says she feels inspired. She said she has written more each morning, and understands why so many writers move to the Garden City.

Mahdavi says she's also inspired by riding her horse, and conversations with students, faculty, her daughter and friends. Mahdavi said she writes to make the world better for future generations, so her daugh-

ter's conversations are especially important to her.

"I work on these painful things. I work on human trafficking, sexual politics. These are topics where people are opening up their hearts to me," Mahdavi said. "If I were to just listen and write a paper in a journal that's never read, I don't think I'd be doing them justice. I owe it to them [to publish]."

All of her books contain investigative research, which Mahdavi conducted through field studies. In these studies, Mahdavi has traveled to other countries, primarily in the Middle East, to talk to people affected by her research topics. Mahdavi meets in person for conversations to better understand existing problems and the environment that influences them.

Mahdavi includes her own personal experiences as an Iranian-American in her writing, as well. For example, in her book "Hyphen," she begins with her journey of finding a sense of belonging in society before talking about other "hyphenated individuals."

Mahdavi said three more books by her will be released in 2023.

One book has a finalized cover and is in production, set to be released in January. It examines how human rights intersect with

climate issues and economic injustices, and how human rights discourse can play a role in modern justice issues.

Another one is part history book, part memoir. Mahdavi said it's about the Caspian horse breed in Iran. It begins with a story about her grandmother, who was a sharpshooter and horseback rider. It then examines the last 60 years and the role Caspian horses have had in transforming Iranian society.

Mahdavi's other book will be a part of the series "Practices" by Duke University Press, edited by Margret Grebowicz. In this series, different authors reflect on hobbies and practices that are done out of passion, not necessarily to perfect a skill. The first four "Practices" books will be released in March 2023. They are about fly-fishing, juggling, raving, and running. More books on different hobbies, including Mahdavi's, are soon to follow.

"I write about riding and writing as the bookends to my day," Mahdavi said. "I start with writing and end with riding. They sort of nourish me and heavily affect how I think about the world."

BANNED FROM IRAN

Mahdavi's first book, "Passionate Uprisings: Iran's Sexual Revolution," landed her in jail. In 2007, Mahdavi was arrested while giving a lecture about feminism at the University of Tehran in Iran.

She was imprisoned for 33 days, and has said she was tortured and interrogated before an underground network of feminist women were able to get her out.

"My Iran book cost me a great deal," Mahdavi said. "It cost me being arrested and exiled from my native homeland. But I would do it again, absolutely. I stand by every word I wrote and said."

Mahdavi's father's side of her family still lives in Iran. After being stripped of her citizenship, Mahdavi isn't able to visit her family there anymore. To keep in touch, Mahdavi said they have "lovely FaceTimes."

She has been able to see them in other places in the Middle East, including in Dubai and Turkey when she does field studies. Mahdavi's family can get travel visas to those countries easier than getting ones to the United States.

Mahdavi said it's very painful to have no path back to Iran.

"It hurts my heart," Mahdavi said. "I miss them. But I do believe in what I wrote. And I think it was important to write what I wrote. I think I'm having a better long term impact on my family's lives and their children's children's lives. But I do miss them."

After moving to Missoula, Mahdavi continues to have connections to Arizona. In addition to her 12-year-old daughter, she

has two sons, Shayan, 9, and Raami, 7. They live in Phoenix with their father. They visit each other frequently.

Tara, Mahdavi's 12-year-old daughter, moved with her to Missoula. She's the same age as Bodnar's twin daughters. They are all going into seventh grade together. Mahdavi said the kids are all friends.

Mahdavi and her daughter shares a love of horses, and they ride together. Her daughter's horse is older and more experienced compared to Mahdavi's horse, she said.

"She tried riding [Caspian] and he took off," Mahdavi said. "He's young and still a little crazy, so I take him."

'THE FIRST PROVOST TO WEAR COWGIRL BOOTS'

Mahdavi has been riding horses for 24 years. She first learned how to ride during a field study in Iran. She learned from a group of feminists who rode horses in order to socially organize their group. For those women, riding was a political act of defiance.

In the move to Missoula, Mahdavi had to sell one of her horses. She couldn't bear to give up Caspian, so he moved with her. In addition to the cultural importance of the breed to her, Mahdavi's dad is also from the Caspian Sea. She said Caspian is an extension of herself, and she feels deeply connected to him.

"He is me," Mahdavi said.

Caspian has been in Mahdavi's care for about a year. Mahdavi is working on training him for trail riding, her favorite horseback riding activity. She is working on sudden stops and turns with Caspian to make trail riding safe.

Mahdavi recognized the heavy presence of bears in Missoula. She said Caspian needs to be able to turn easily to avoid wildlife, keeping them both safe.

She is also working on getting Caspian used to riding on different surfaces, such as the Rattlesnake Creek that runs by the stables where Caspian stays. She is also working with him on endurance for longer rides.

After brushing Caspian and massaging his forehead to relax him, Mahdavi got her horse all saddled up. She did multiple safety checks before climbing on.

The two entered a riding arena and began moving in circles, working on abrupt stops and changing directions. Her dog, Bella, sprinted across the arena and then followed Caspian around, the two animals obviously familiar with each other.

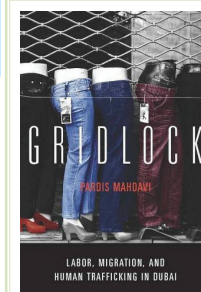
"Someone told me I'm the first provost to wear cowgirl boots," Mahdavi said. "I like that."

PARDIS MAHDAVI'S COMPLETED WORKS



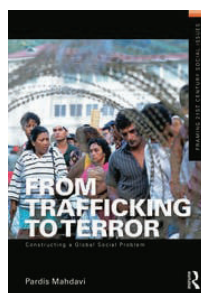
2008: "PASSIONATE UPRISINGS: IRAN'S SEXUAL REVOLUTION"

Tells the stories of Iranian youth who use sex as an act of political rebellion.



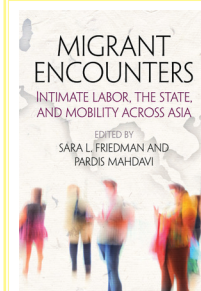
2011: "GRIDLOCK: LABOR, MIGRATION, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN DUBAI"

Examines migrants' experiences in Dubai and compares them to the global conversation on human trafficking.



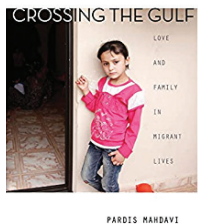
2013: "FROM TRAFFICKING TO TERROR: CONSTRUCTING A GLOBAL SOCIAL PROBLEM"

Looks at how the war on terror and trafficking promotes anti-Muslim sentiment and rethinks how human rights challenges are discussed.



2015: "MIGRANT ENCOUNTERS: INTIMATE LABOR, THE STATE, AND MOBILITY ACROSS ASIA"

Analyzes people who migrate to perform intimate labor and the effects of state policies.



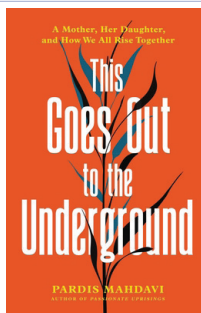
2016: "CROSSING THE GULF: LOVE AND FAMILY IN MIGRANT LIVES"

Tells the stories of migrants from Gulf cities, looks at how state policies don't acknowledge challenges.



2021: "HYPHEN"

Examines Mahdavi's sense of self and hyphenated identities.



2022: "THIS GOES OUT TO THE UNDERGROUND"

Memoir set to be released in July 2022, but was not published.

What's inside the 'UM Vault?'

ASA THOMAS METCALFE
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As an experienced dorm dweller, Jordan Crawford understands the basic supplies needed for on-campus living. Since the addition of the University of Montana Vault to the University Center last October, Crawford has been selling those necessities to students.

"My favorite part is buying products that not only I would use, but where I think, 'Oh, this would have been handy in college to have,'" Crawford said.

Crawford previously served as the manager of the UC ShipEx. She was brought on to manage the fledgling Vault in October. Now, Crawford manages the shop and oversees purchasing inventory.

As a recent graduate of the University, Crawford said she is mindful of what products can and can't be used in student housing. She stays keyed into what kinds of trends can make certain products popular.

While the store is mostly local artisan kitsch, it does supply dorm essentials like fragrance goods, locally made soaps, dryer balls and a general retail offering with a slightly more artistic flair. The hair clips are matte colors, and the candy is health conscious.

"We try to think, 'Well, students can't have candles in the dorms because that's a fire hazard. So, what are the alternatives that we can offer?'" Crawford said.

To avoid conflicts with the fire code, the store offers products like oil-diffusers, which Crawford said have sold well.

Not only do the products cater to the students, but the space itself has become a way to engage with a market of locally-made goods and even features work by creators or artists.

The UM Vault features an artist of the month. A current student or alum is given display space for a few choice works and allowed some retail area to sell whatever commercially viable things they have created.

Due to a lack of student presence through the last few months, it mostly switched between the two artists who work for the store.

"We kind of alternated between Paisley Ivanovitch and Tessa Johnson who work for the vault, too," Crawford said. "But we have until December booked out now and we're always looking for people to assign



Paisley Ivanovitch works the counter at the UM Vault on Sept. 2. Each month, the UM Vault showcases a different artist's work, and this month, Ivanovitch's work is up on the wall. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

them later."

Paisley Ivanovitch, a junior art major from Missoula, is the current artist of the month. While she has been featured before, she enjoys every chance to have people recognize and talk about her art.

"It's been a really fun experience seeing people come in and, especially when I'm working, people be like, 'Oh, this art is really cool,'" said Ivanovitch, who uses the name Pastry for an artist moniker.

While the Vault is not a gallery, any space is a positive addition on an artist's resume and even being featured for one month in the UM Vault can help glow up an art

student's resume.

"It's also really motivating for the future because I've never really made any sort of merchandise or any sort of prints before this," Ivanovitch said. "Now that I've gotten out there a bit more, it's given me inspiration to start creating more and start painting more."

Ivanovitch draws very colorful characters in an anime style and enjoys drawing cats and Halloween themed renditions of her characters. She made keychains and prints to sell as part of her month-long feature and sells a glow-in-the-dark skeleton cat key-chain on her Etsy. She credits the UM Vault

for pushing her to create something sellable and encourages other students and artists to apply for the residency.

"It's a really great opportunity and I think they definitely should take advantage of it, especially while they're still a student," Ivanovitch said. "Alumni can also do it, and like I said, it's really motivating and helpful."

Students and alumni can apply for a monthly feature through the UM Vault website, which can be found through the general UC website. Application for the pop-up shops can also be found there but aren't reserved for artists affiliated with the University.

UM alumnus takes trip to Italy in new album

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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Over the summer, University of Montana alumnus Kasper Horton traveled to Italy for a music tour. He returned from the shores of Ischia, Italy, to the United States with a repertoire of poems and song ideas for his upcoming album, "Train to Florence."

"I'm at a place I feel very naturally expressive about my music," Horton said. "I'm able to express something in this album I was not really able to do with just hip-hop."

Coining the stage name "Kasper the Saint," Horton started writing and producing his own music around four years ago after he left his hometown of Inglewood, California, a city in southwestern Los Angeles County. He first attended community college and then enrolled at UM after receiving a scholarship. He graduated with a B.A. in arts and dance in the spring of 2021.

Over the course of his music career, he's produced four Extended Play albums and a series of singles. Horton said he created around five songs since it is an EP Album. He plans to release a new song a month to make his total number of tracks from around 7 to 10. The first track "Train To Florence" will debut on Sept. 16 on several streaming platforms, in-

cluding Spotify, SoundCloud and Apple Music.

Unlike his previous work, Horton said this album is not exclusive to the hip-hop genre. He decided to infuse his new tracks with pop rock, a decision he credits to Machine Gun Kelly, a famous singer who gained popularity after making the jump from rap to pop and punk rock.

"Machine Gun Kelly was singing about the same stuff I was singing," Horton said. "I was singing really slow and I heard him singing really fast, so I changed my pace to more pop-rock music."

Beyond other pop artists, Horton also derives inspiration from his poetry and his dancing. During his senior year at the University, he was a member of the Black Student Union. Each year, members of BSU submit poems for its annual poetry book. Horton said he bounced ideas off of other members and wrote poems he later used as material for his music.

"I learned communication is a big part of storytelling," Horton said.

Horton's interest in storytelling originated in his dancing, which he said is one way to express emotion through movement. He has more than 18 years of experience. During his time at UM, Horton participated in Ballet Beyond Borders, an annual event hosted by Missoula's Rocky Mountain Ballet Theatre

that connects dancers across the globe to meet, share ideas and promote positive change in the world.

A few years ago, he decided he wanted to broaden his scope of talents. While he is predominantly a singer, he said he's picked up playing instruments in recent years, including the guitar, drums and bass.

"I'm not very good at it," Horton said with a laugh. "But I'm getting better."

With this album in the works, Horton also offers services through his company, West Oliv Studios. He offers music video shoots, private online dance lessons, dance music edits and creative consultations. He said he will have a location for his studio by the end of the year.

He also intermittently produces his podcast "Kasper and Friends," where he talks with colleagues and friends about life experiences, and themes like discipline, reliability, peace and self-love.

"I think it's important as an artist to be able



Kasper Horton poses for his newest album cover, titled 'Train to Florence.' **MARIA ZEPEDA, MONTANA AREA MUSIC ASSOCIATION | CONTRIBUTED**

to branch out," Horton said. "I've never been the type to do one thing."

To learn more about Horton or to stream his music, visit his Instagram or Twitter @kasperthesaint.

'Pinocchio,' the cursed remake no one asked for

HALEY YARBOROUGH

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Despite what the new live-action adaptation of "Pinocchio" advertises, Pinocchio is not a real boy. He's not even a wooden doll. He's a CGI-rendered piece of Disney merchandise walking on two legs, so glaringly unreal he'd blend in better with the blue aliens in "Avatar."

Since the release of the CGI-rendered "Lion King," Disney has made many quick cash-grab efforts to capitalize on the creativity of its previous work. The result? A repertoire of movies that are more hollow and wooden than Pinocchio's head.

The only distinction between this new adaptation of "Pinocchio" and the Dumpster fire of other films is that you don't have to pay a gazillion dollars at AMC to watch it. Instead, you can stream it on Disney Plus from the comfort of your couch.

Be warned, by the end you'll probably question why you didn't decide to watch the 1940 original rather than this CGI shit-show.

Following the same premise of the animated adaptation, "Pinocchio" begins with an old

clockmaker (Tom Hanks) building a puppet because he wants a real son. The Blue Fairy (Cynthia Erivo) grants his wish and brings the doll to life. Armed with a Cricket (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) for a conscience, Pinocchio soon disobeys his "father" by staying out past midnight to watch a puppet show before being abducted by a puppeteer and ending up at Pleasure Island, a hellish amusement park where drinks turn patrons into donkeys.

On the surface level, the remake does not stray far from the original plot. Some of the scene shots are down to a tee. Unfortunately, the more you watch it and the closer you look at Pinocchio's Pixar-esque countenance, you start to realize this is just a thinner, less-inspired version of the original's most iconic story beats.

This is particularly pertinent in the heavy-handed emphasis on fame, characterized by the villainous Honest Fox (Keegan Michael Key) droning on about the importance of followers. At one point he even makes an imaginary phone with his hands and pretends to snap a selfie, to drive the point home of how quirky and relatable he is.

On paper, casting Hanks as Gepetto was

the logical decision. He's old and kid-friendly. But it turns out his performance as Gepetto is just a more water-downed, kid-friendly version of his performance in "Elvis," just with a very unconvincing European accent. To give Hanks some credit, he was not given great material.

Most of his scenes are him alone, spewing exposition at a clock and a cricket. Still, this man won two Oscars. Surely he could pull some miracle performance out of his ass.

Despite all its flaws, at least "Pinocchio" has a reasonable score. "When You Wish Upon a Star" is still a banger and the movie is smartly saturated with references to it. The costume and set design are well done, specifically Gepetto's workshop, and Levitt's voice acting as the Cricket is perfect.

At face value, "Pinocchio" offers harmless entertainment for young kids, but for an older audience, it lacks the darker and more competent narrative that made the original plot both entertaining and meaningful.

If Disney wants to make a live-action remake, they would probably fare better making a horror-movie adaptation of "Pinocchio." A doll that comes to life? That shit is scary.



CONTRIBUTED

UM students use soccer experience to better Montana

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Isabelle Melton started the organization Soccer Soles when she realized that not all kids have access to gear they need to play the sport they love.

She got the idea while volunteering at a summer camp for her local club, Helena Youth Soccer Association, or HYSA.

"I noticed that one of the players wasn't participating, and was often sitting off to the side, and so I went and talked to him and he let me know that he felt like he couldn't play with the other players because he didn't have shin guards or cleats," Melton said.

This statement surprised her because it was something she had never to worry about in her own life.

"When I realized that someone felt they couldn't play a sport I really loved, and found a lot of passion in, that made me want to act and do something about that gap in the community," Melton said.

She started Soccer Soles the summer before her freshman year of high school in 2015. Partnering with HYSA, she formulated a plan for a donation system in which people could donate gently used gear and it would be distributed back to players in need. She started by distributing the gear herself, but the idea took off. Soccer Soles started in Helena, but gained a Missoula branch when Melton moved to go to the University of Montana. She passed on the Helena leadership to her cousin, Mia.

Melton partnered with the Missoula Strikers to open another branch. This past winter, she also opened up another branch in the Gallatin Valley, where two fifth grade students, Isabel and Jack, are partnered with Montana Surf, Competitive Academy.

Melton graduated in the spring and took an opportunity to go to Florida and intern at Disney as a park greeter at Epcot. So, she handed over leadership of the Missoula branch to Paige Mickelson, a UM freshman and political science major.

Melton and Mickelson met when they were both working at the Mansfield Center on campus, and ran into each other a few times, but didn't really spend time together until they were both at a Missoula Paddleheads baseball game. They sat next to each other and began to talk about what they had in common: soccer. Mickelson played at Big Sky High School and works with soccer clubs in the area, like the Missoula Strikers and Montana Surf Soccer Club.

Melton went to Capital High School in Helena, so the two quickly realized they had played

against each other at some point in their careers. Mickelson was excited to take over the branch and give back to soccer players and the sport she's known her whole life.

"[Mickelson] has brought a lot of energy to the role that I really think is going to strengthen the branch in Missoula," Melton said.

Mickelson grew up in Missoula and has played soccer her whole life, starting at age four. Her love for the game drew her into the idea of Soccer Soles from the moment Melton brought it up.

As a Missoula native, Mickelson has been involved with all three soccer clubs in the area as either a player or a coach. Her connections with Missoula Strikers, Missoula Surf, and FC Missoula allowed her to easily take over this branch. She used these club summer soccer camps to gather donations and talk to parents and players about the organization's mission.

She gave them the opportunity to help, or to let her know if they need help, along with raising awareness for Soccer Soles and what it does.

"To me [Soccer Soles] was a very cool opportunity to be able to use soccer for good, and for a different way, using the game I grew up loving as a way to support other people and nurture that feeling for others as well," Mickelson said.

Since taking over the program, Mickelson has already been working on donation drives and getting in touch with influential people within Montana soccer. She met with Alexandra Long, a former U.S. women's soccer player who is interested in being involved with Soccer Soles. Long played for Gotham FC in New Jersey, but has since moved to Missoula.

"I'm really excited because I grew up watching her on TV and she was one of my inspirations, and now randomly she's in Missoula, I'm doing this project..." Mickelson said. "It's a really crazy coincidence."

Montana Soccer Soles is also registered with the United Nations Division of Sustainable Development, which works on supporting sustainability for issues such as water and energy.

The organization staffs local tournaments and tryouts to help connect players to resources they may need. There are direct and specific orders that people can place for equipment. Once the gear is collected, it is cleaned and then redistributed. Some other items they offer besides cleats and shin guards are goalie gloves, warmups and indoor shoes.

Melton, Mickelson and the rest of the Soccer Soles team are constantly working to make sure young Montana soccer players can have their needs met and play the sport they love.



Paige Mickelson runs Soccer Soles, an organization that helps get soccer equipment to those who need it.
LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM rugby back to practice

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The University of Montana women's rugby team is back on the grind with the first practices of the year before its debut matchup against its rival, Montana State.

This rugby club has only existed for a couple years now, but club rugby has been going on in Missoula since the 1970s.

Betterside Rugby is a women's rugby club that has welcomed those from across Missoula including some eager students at the University of Montana.

Rachel McNulty was one of the Betterside Rugby members and how part of the University's club team. She has slowly seen interest grow in the club, which is in its second year of play.

McNulty, a sophomore political science and pre-law major, has known rugby as more than just a sport but a part of her heritage.

"I kind of got introduced to rugby at a young age by my father who's from the UK," McNulty said. "So I grew up being around the sport."

After moving from the Appalachians of North Carolina to Montana, she tried her best to find a group that would keep her interested and engaged on campus.

McNulty's predisposition to rugby made it easy for her to join the Betterside Girls. But that wasn't enough to satisfy her taste for rugby competition.

"(Betterside) were the people that taught us how to play from scratch," McNulty said. They have always been there for us and they wanted to come out and help coach the UM team as well."

McNulty and current co-captain Kailie Todd, with the help of the Betterside coaching staff, decided to push for a collegiate group.

Now, two years after UM rugby's first Instagram post announced its arrival, the team is making the sport accessible for those around campus.

"I always know I can rely on my teammates to just make me feel better," Todd said. "And then rugby is a very physical sport. So, you can get out a lot of your angst through rugby."

Todd is a senior wildlife biology major at the University who hails from the Garden State, New Jersey.

"New Jersey's a lot more people. Every-



Caitlyn "Velcro" Manning catches a pass from Sara "Diesel" Nemi at a rugby practice on Sept. 9. The UM Griz Women's Rugby Club formed last school year and is captained by Rachel McNulty. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

one's a little bit in a hurry and kind of rude, but in Missoula everyone's really laid back and really nice," Todd said.

McNulty and Todd aren't from the same state, but they both found rugby as a way to keep calm while being thousands of miles from their families.

The only problem now is the lack of opponents that the Griz rugby squad is able to face in a year.

"We have two seasons, one in fall and one in spring, due to just lack of women's teams in the area now, because slowly people are losing interest in playing," McNulty said in response to the team's sparse fall schedule.

The Grizzlies will play Montana State,

Utah, and Gonzaga with another matchup scheduled for Oct. 22 in Kellogg, Idaho.

As rugby continues to gain traction, the need for more competition is imperative for the team's survival. But McNulty doesn't want people to feel like this is a group exclusively for the experienced.

"We're trying to teach the people that are coming into the program that we don't want to add more stress to your life," McNulty said. "We want to help you be able to grow and be able to handle what is going on in college because it is an extremely stressful time."

The team's first practice of the year was a smoky Sept. 8. Girls of different skill levels

came together to start their first day of the team's second fall season.

Players were fumbling lateral passes, missing their cue in warm-ups and just figuring out the pace of the game. However, through all of the confusion, there was a chorus of giggles.

The smiles of McNulty, Todd and the entire rugby crew were enough to know that this isn't just a club for those looking for a scrum, but a group of girls who want to make life a little easier by making you a little tougher.

UM rugby will play its first game against Montana State on Sept. 24 at home before facing Utah at home on Oct. 8.

First Hemp and Cannabis Festival since recreational selling legalized

WORDS BY NATE SANCHEZ
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The smell of burning cannabis and steak-nacho food trucks permeated the air above the large grass field off of Highway 12 in Lolo Hotsprings, Montana. The Montana State Hemp & Cannabis Festival returned for the seventh year with more recreational sellers from across the state.

Visitors traveled from all over the country to camp for the weekend

and listen to music coming from a stage in a field surrounded by trees, running water and rock formations.

This was the first year the festival was able to legally accommodate the use of recreational cannabis. Half-past four, the guests settled in and got more comfortable and began to mingle. Local Montana businesses set up tables and booths, offering an array of hemp-inspired products. Some guests wore tails and kicked a ball back and forth. Other guests stood completely still for hours.



Gabriel Pheiffer, left, and Jimi Light kick a beach ball back and forth in the Montana State Hemp & Cannabis Festival quad. "Be fearless and play," said Pheiffer. **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**



John Porterfield smells his hemp tree while positioning it for his booth at the the Montana State Hemp & Cannabis Festival. "Montana is kicking ass in the hemp world. We're the world leaders." **NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN**

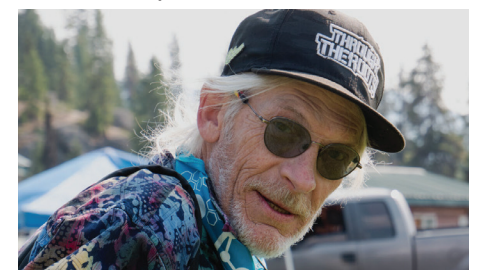


Lloyd Mercer throws up a peace sign while standing in the spot he stayed for at least five hours on Friday. He says he lives by the motto, "Be yourself, by yourself, for yourself." **GRIFFIN ZIEGERT | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Doug Fine poses with a goat that is 3D printed with hemp. Fine is an author of two books and has attended every Montana State Hemp & Cannabis Festival except for the first one.

NATE SANCHEZ | MONTANA KAIMIN



Tom Bleck walks into the Montana State Hemp and Cannabis Festival, an event he describes as, "a cross between Burning Man and Pee-Wee Herman." **GRIFFIN ZIEGERT | MONTANA KAIMIN**