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Toys flood Griz for Kids Second annual toy drive collects thousands of toys for youth in need

Never mind that it was only Nov. 4. The holiday season was in full swing for the Griz faithful at the Cal Poly game as fan after fan brought toys for the Griz for Kids drive to give kids in need something special come December.

Volunteers manned tables at each entrance to Washington-Grizzly Stadium at The University of Montana ready to accept toys and spirit them away to a trailer for further distribution.

Beginning hours before kickoff, footballs, Legos, Barbie dolls and more started pouring in from fans of all ages.

Griz fans from Billings, Great Falls and nearly everywhere else in the state showed up with toys for Missoula-area kids.

"It's really incredible that they donated to help Missoula kids," said University Relations Director Rita Munzenrider. "They wanted to support something the Grizzlies were doing."

At press time an official count of toys was unavailable, but the sheer volume of gifts indicated that the number was significantly higher than last year.

"The drive was even more successful than last year," she said. "It brought in more than enough to meet the needs of the agencies involved."

The agencies that will distribute the toys around the area include Mountain Home Montana, Head Start, Early Head Start,

Missoula Indian Center, Youth Homes Inc., Watson Children Shelter, A.W.A.R.E. Inc., YWCA and WORD.

Leftover toys will be used to fill some unanticipated needs in Missoula's Flagship Program at local elementary schools and be donated to the Salvation Army.

The Griz for Kids program, now in its second year, was organized by Grizzly football player Ryan Wells, who took the reins from his teammate and friend Chris Orwig, the program's founder.

"Chris wanted Ryan to take this to a whole new level this year, and he really met the challenge," Munzenrider said. "He represented the Grizzlies and the Department of English well."

Wells earned academic credit for directing the program through an internship organized by the English department.

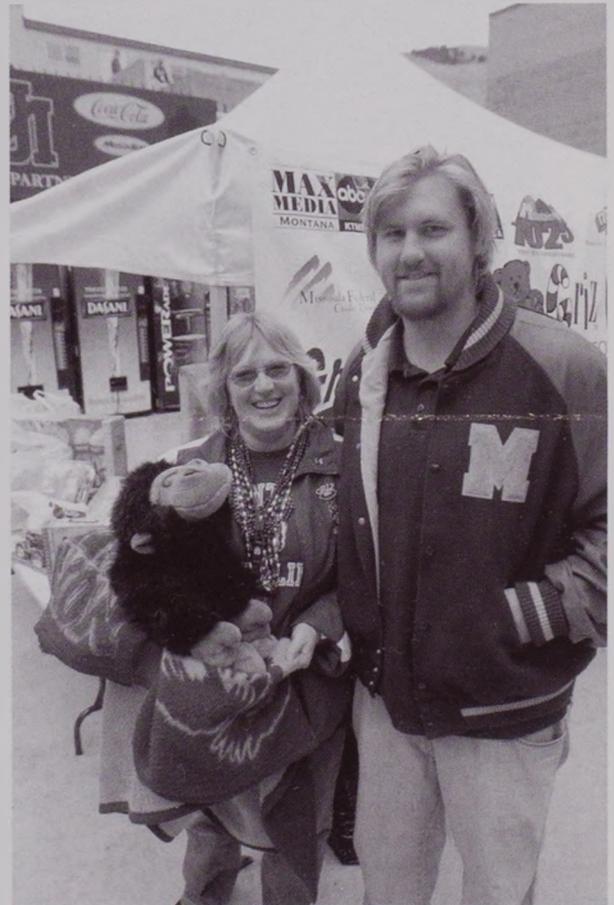
Sponsors for Griz for Kids included Max Media, Missoula Federal Credit Union, 102.5 Mountain FM's Mountain of Giving Toy Drive, UM, the Montana Grizzlies and Beach Transportation.

The weekend following the drive,

bus drivers from Beach Transportation donated their time to unload and sort the toys at the Missoula County Fairgrounds.

After the toys are sorted, the agencies responsible for distribution

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Griz for Kids organizer and Grizzly football player Ryan Wells stands with fan Chris Thompson at the Nov. 4 Cal Poly game. She is donating a stuffed toy on her way to the game.

Santa Train ready to make yearly visit to Missoula

Eight tiny reindeer it is not, but Santa is unlikely to have many complaints when his train pulls in behind Southgate Mall in Missoula Saturday, Dec. 2.

The annual Santa Train, sponsored by Montana Rail Link and Southgate Mall, brings hats and mittens to children in need and gives the community a chance to get those gift requests to the jolly man in red. UM will join the event as a sponsor this year.

Santa will roll down the Bitterroot Line

in one of two shiny, silver Montana Rail Link dome cars – complete with lavish upholstery and plenty of holiday cheer.

Montana Rail Link spokeswoman Lynda Frost said the Santa Train has been visiting the mall for more than 15 years.

"Now it's a tradition," she said.

Kids and adults can come out to the railroad tracks between Southgate Mall and Bob Ward's from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to see Santa or just ogle the train.

"We always get a lot of railroad buffs in

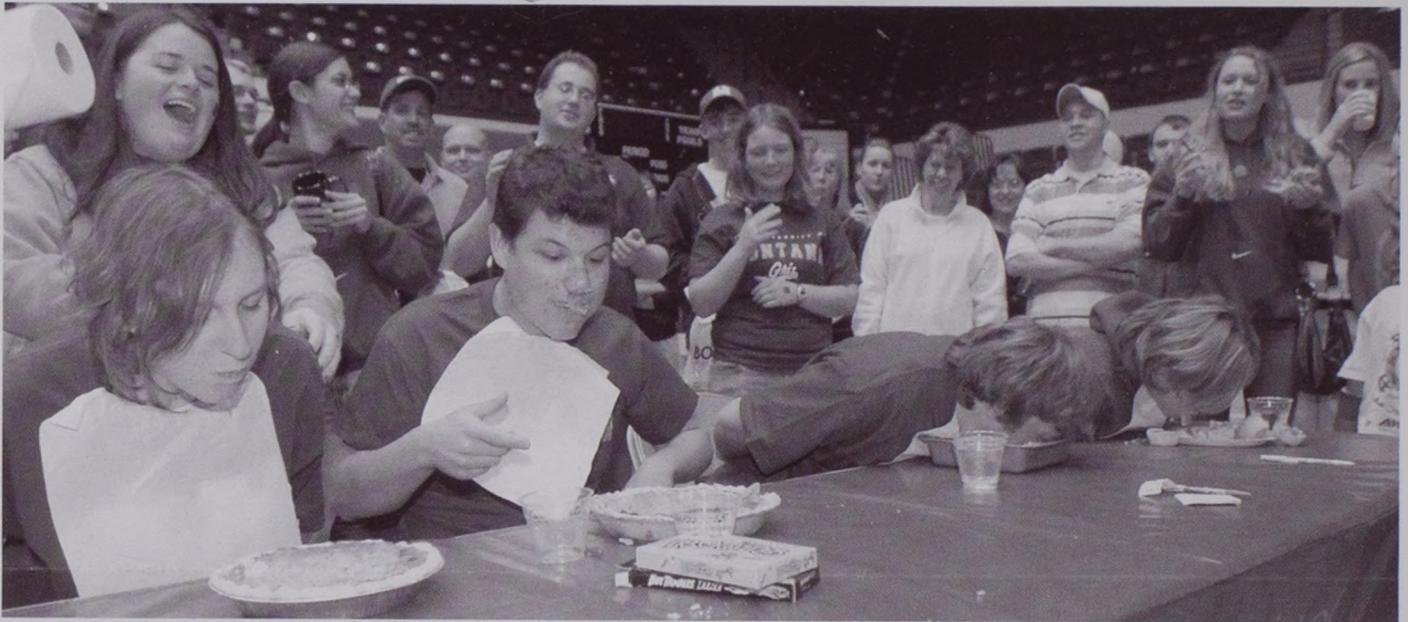
the community who come out," Frost said.

The line for those waiting on Kris Kringle will snake through the other dome car, so visitors can stay warm and have a look through the train.

UM representatives will be on hand to give away Griz spirit items and apply Griz tattoos on kids' faces.

Cider, hot cocoa and coffee will be provided by UM, and Southgate Mall will supply Christmas cookies for the free event. ☺

Family Weekend 2006



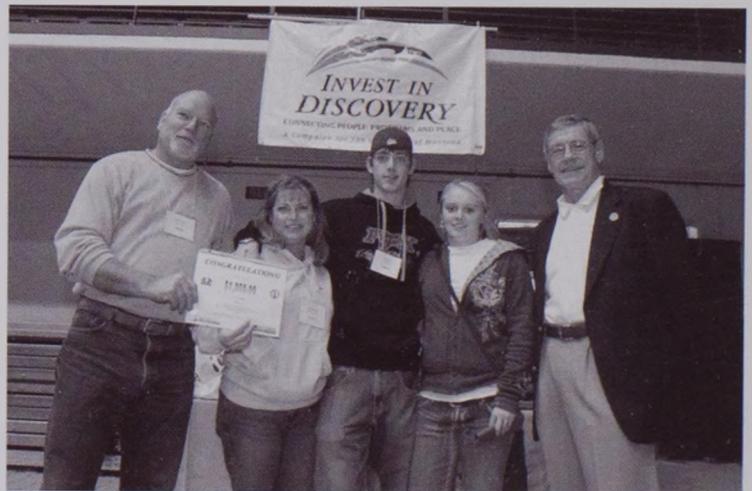
UM Advocates vie for a pie-eating contest victory as students and their families look on at the first-ever Fam Jam during Family Weekend on Oct. 27.

Dad wins scholarship for son

Bob Clark, a Great Falls father, was the winner of a \$1,000 Excellence Fund Scholarship given away at the Fam Jam during Family Weekend Oct. 27. His son, Casey, a UM freshman and graduate of Great Falls High School, will use the scholarship to pay spring semester tuition.

The scholarship, presented to Clark by UM President George Dennison, is made possible through private giving to The University of Montana Foundation.

In addition to the Excellence Fund Scholarship, more than \$7,000 in gift certificates, textbook vouchers and Griz logo items were given away in prize drawings during the Fam Jam. Missoula businesses were extremely generous to visiting families and once again proved the community's hospitality is second to none. 🐾



Greek Task Force works hard for higher membership

It's been two years since a task force of interested alumni was formed to support the Greek system at UM.

Now, even with the number of new members bolstered and increasingly successful recruitment methods in place, these alums meet from their homes around the country in a weekly conference call to discuss ways to help UM's Greek community.

Greek Life Adviser Emily Yaksitch said the task force is made up of alumni from active chapter houses at UM, as well as those from houses that have been inactive on campus for years.

"It's nice because there's still that fabric," she said. "They want it to stick around whether it's their house or Greeks at large."

The group doesn't have any pre-stated goals or objectives, Yaksitch said, but they are instrumental in fundraising and organizing statewide recruiting efforts that reach out to graduating high school students.

Today there are nine active chapter houses in the UM Greek system — five fraternities and four sororities.

Yaksitch said that at one time as many as 25 active chapters operated at UM.

Allison Squires, president of the Alpha Phi sorority, said they had 15 new members enroll this year — a large increase from the last several.

"This year is a turning point for the Greek system," she said. "The increased membership is a good sign that we will be making more of an impact on campus in the future."

There currently are now 282 members of the Greek system — only about 2 percent of the student body — but an increase from recent years.

Yaksitch said the revived interest comes from a more unified recruiting effort and better communication among alumni, current Greeks and administration at UM.

"Greek life is a way of getting involved on campus, not just involved in the Greek community," she said.

This year alone, the Greek community has experienced a 43 percent increase in membership, Yaksitch said.

"It doubled some chapters' sizes," she said.

Spring recruitment begins in early February 2007. 🐾

Internet Improvements—As the use of Internet technologies has soared, so too has demand on The University of Montana's computer network, resulting in sometimes frustrating slowdowns. The University has announced a plan to address the situation, said Ray Ford, associate vice president for Information Technology. "In order to provide a better safety margin, IT will move ahead as soon as possible to implement this plan," he said. The plan involves separating on-campus from Residence Life traffic; assigning each to their own external network links; increasing net bandwidth to campus by 50 percent – from 90MB to 135MB; dedicating 90MB of bandwidth to on-campus traffic and the other, separate 45MB to Residence Life; dedicating a newly purchased "filtering box" – which reduces extraneous network traffic – to the on-campus load, while switching the older unit to Residence Life traffic. For more information about Information Technology on campus, visit <http://www.umt.edu/it/>.

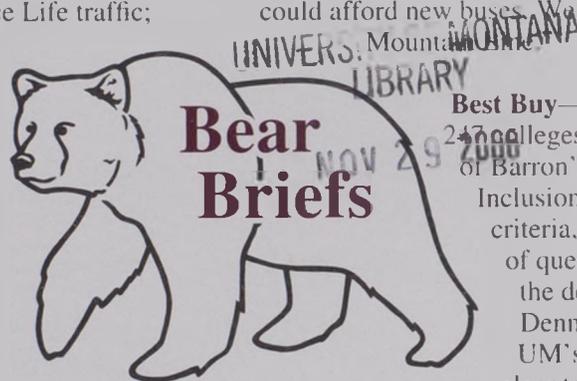
Correction Curriculum—Montana's parole and probation officers deal with a diverse group of offenders who are increasingly mentally ill, chemically dependent and sexually violent. To meet the demands of this offender population, the Adult Community Corrections Division of the state Department of Corrections has hired UM to design an online training program to assist its officers in dealing with these difficult cases. "This training is absolutely needed," said Tim Conley, the assistant professor in UM's School of Social Work who spearheads the project. The Web-based training will be offered through UM Continuing Education, which has a wide variety of online course offerings. Conley said the project should save taxpayer dollars because officers won't have to travel to other cities and stay in hotels for training as they do now. Also, this means department's training dollars will be spent in Montana, rather than on out-of-state training courses.

Buying Bricks—Become a permanent part of the UM-Missoula campus by having your name — or another special person's — engraved on a brick in Centennial Circle. Paved with red bricks, the circle surrounds Rudy Autio's landmark grizzly bear statue, located on the western edge of the Oval. With its classic Main Hall and Mount Sentinel backdrop, the circle is a favorite place for picture-taking. The bricks cost \$150 each and may be engraved with names or brief messages. A Centennial Circle brick makes a great Christmas gift. For more information, go online to <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/bricks.htm>.



Bus Redux—It turns out there is such thing as a free ride. Two of them. For the second time in as many months, UM is the recipient of a bus donated by the City of Missoula's Mountain Line bus system. The Associated Students of UM Office of Transportation will now have two backup buses on the Park-N-Ride routes, making maintenance and repairs easier and less disruptive. The extra carrying capacity of the longer bus also helps alleviate riders having to wait for the next bus during peak times, especially on the busy South Campus route. ASUM President Andrea Helling said that because of breakdowns and

other required maintenance, the donated buses couldn't have come at a better time. "The current buses are 1988 and 1989 models," she said. "Most cars don't even run that well when they're this old." Before the newly donated bus runs its first route, it must undergo a paint job to cloak it in UM maroon and white with Park-N-Ride logos. "In our budget we can barely afford to have them painted," Helling said. "There's no way we could afford new buses. We're just tremendously thankful to



Best Buy—UM was chosen to appear as one of 247 colleges and universities in the 9th edition of Barron's "Best Buys in College Education." Inclusion in the volume is based on various criteria, including tuition rates and the results of questionnaires filled out by students and the dean of students. President George Dennison indicated his gratification about UM's inclusion, since these listings make clear to potential students the value received for the value given. "We try hard to earn the 'best buy' billing by emphasizing affordability and quality," he said. Colleges covered in the book range from publicly supported schools that are virtually tuition-free to moderately priced ones that provide quality education at bargain prices.

Campus Closings—The UM campus will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Thursday and Friday Nov. 23-24. Students and faculty have Wednesday Nov. 22 off for a travel day, but campus offices will remain open that day.

Knowles Acknowledged—UM radio-television Professor William Knowles, the man known to thousands of students for his Introduction to Mass Media class, was recently honored with a national award for his contribution to broadcast journalism. Knowles received the prestigious Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education at the 2006 annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The award is named for legendary CBS newsman Ed Bliss, a longtime writer and producer for Walter Cronkite. Knowles has taught at UM since 1986. His students have won nearly every award bestowed on college journalists, including Emmy Awards, Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Awards, and Associated Press and Montana Broadcasters Association honors. Before coming to UM, Knowles worked in the profession for 22 years. He was a news producer and executive for ABC News in bureaus in Los Angeles and Atlanta and in Washington, D.C., where he covered a number of historic events during Watergate.

Cookie Cook-Off—Students, staff and faculty will take the stress out of finals week by baking cookies to help those in need at UM's annual Great UM Christmas Cookie Cook-Off. The event will take place Thursday, Dec. 14, in the Food Zoo. Volunteers from the campus community are invited to bake cookies for their families and more importantly, for those in need. This year's theme is "The Bear that Cares," and Monte will make an appearance along with Santa Claus. Last year nearly 280-dozen cookies were donated to 13 local charities and more than 22 campus departments participated in the event. Supplies are provided by University Dining Services and donors. For more information or to donate supplies, call University Dining Services at 243-6325.

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Griz for Kids — continued

comb through the gifts with wish lists from families in need, and eventually families receiving the toys come to those agencies and “shop” for what they want for their children.

Although the Griz for Kids toy drive is over, the Mountain of Giving Toy Drive continues and people can still make contributions at Missoula Federal Credit Union locations.

There is still a need for infant and toddler clothing, as well as Leap Pad games.

Missoula Youth Homes has particular need for Griz sweatshirts, hats and other clothing for gifts.

Donations will be accepted through mid-December. 🐾



Griz for Kids volunteers collect toys from a Griz fan on Nov. 4.

Bear Briefs — continued

Feel The Burn—UM health and human performance students have two goals in mind by hosting the Freezer Burn Run to be held Saturday, Dec. 2. One is to motivate people of all ages to keep moving despite the colder weather. The other is to raise funds for the University’s Human Performance Laboratory. The event, which includes a 13-mile run or a 5-kilometer (3.1-mile) run or fitness walk, begins at 10 a.m. at the Frenchtown High School parking lot. To preregister and get a long-sleeved T-shirt with the run logo costs \$15. Registration deadline is Monday, Nov. 27, to get the T-shirt. A \$5 registration fee also is available that does not include the T-shirt. For UM students with a Griz Card who do not want a T-shirt, registration is free. Register online at <http://www.soe.umt.edu/hhp> or at the following locations: the Runner’s Edge, 325 N. Higgins Ave.; UM’s HHP office, McGill Hall Room 101; or UM’s Fitness and Recreation Center. Registration and check-in begin at 9 a.m. the day of the event. For more information, call HHP Adjunct Assistant Professor Carla Cox at 406-243-4291 or e-mail carla.cox@mso.umt.edu.

COT Tours—The UM College of Technology in Missoula now offers tours of its east and west campuses at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Prospective students and their families, school classes and other interested groups may schedule

tours by calling the COT Admissions Office at 406-243-7882 or e-mailing COTAdmissions@umontana.edu.

Kids’ Art—Two new and exciting exhibits – “Children of the Permanent Collection” and “Children’s Art from the Community” – are on view at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at UM. “Children of the Permanent Collection” highlights more than 55 exquisite artworks from the museum’s Permanent Collection – paintings, drawings, prints and ceramics that depict unique portrayals of children as seen through the eyes of the artists. “Children’s Art from the Community” features artwork created by Missoula’s elementary school children in grades K-5. The artwork portrays adults at work and play, at family gatherings and engaging in every day activities. The exhibits will be at the museum’s Meloy and Paxson galleries, located in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center, through Saturday, Dec. 23. Museum hours are Tuesday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, from 4 to 8:30 p.m. There is no charge for admission and free parking is available near the northwest corner of the PAR/TV Center. For more information, call 406-243-2019, e-mail museum@umontana.edu or visit the museum’s Web site at <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>. 🐾

Art Exhibition—Nov. 28- Dec.13. 12th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition, Gallery of Visual Arts, Social Science Building, Gallery hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday; Monday by appointment.

Lecture—Dec. 4. “The Red Wave in Latin America: What the Turn to the Left Means for the United States.” President’s Lecture Series with the Davidson Honors College, 8 p.m., University Center

UM Events

Ballroom, free.

Film—Dec. 7. “Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers.” 2006 Peace and Justice Film Series, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., University Center Theater, free.

Play—Dec. 5-9. “Richard III” 7:30 p.m., Montana Theatre, PAR/TV Center, \$15 general; \$12 students and seniors;

\$5 children 12 and under. Tickets and information: 406-243-4581.

Gallery—Nov. 4-Dec. 23. “Children of the Permanent Collection” and “Children’s Art from the Community.” Montana Museum of Art & Culture, Meloy and Paxson galleries hours: 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday, 4-8:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Information: 406-243-2019, <http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum>.



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Montana

Main Hall to Main Street is published by University Relations at The University of Montana. Send questions or suggestions to Alex Strickland, editor, Brantly Hall 330, Missoula, MT 59812, or call 406-243-4878. Brenda Day, Rita Munzenrider, Patia Stephens and Cary Shimek are contributing editors and writers. Todd Goodrich is the primary photographer. The newsletter is available online at <http://www.umt.edu/urelations/mainhall>.