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The University of
Montana

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • MISSOULA, MT 59812 • 406-243-2522 • FAX: 406-243-4520

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Rita Munzenrider, University Relations, (406) 243-4824.

GREAT GRIZ ENCOUNTER SET FOR AUG. 18

MISSOULA –

Usually, it's not safe to rub elbows with grizzly bears. Unless they are of the gridiron variety.

That's what fans of all ages are invited to do at the seventh annual Great Griz Encounter at The University of Montana Sunday, Aug. 18. The event runs from 3-5 p.m. at UM's River Bowl, north of Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Highlights include a chance for kids to catch passes on the field from members of the NCAA Division I-AA defending national champion Montana Grizzlies. Beginning at 3 p.m., Griz cheerleaders will hand out free tickets for drawings for Griz logowear and other items. The Grizzlies arrive at about 3:10 p.m.

Griz players will pose for photos and autograph free 2002 football posters, 2001 National Championship team photos and mini Griz footballs. In addition, head coach Joe Glenn will talk about the upcoming season, which kicks off Thursday, Aug. 29, against Hofstra in New York. Glenn is looking for revenge against the team that defeated the Grizzlies by one point in his first game at UM in September 2000.

The Grizzlies will sing a preseason "Up With Montana, Boys" before leading fans to

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Washington-Grizzly Stadium for more interaction with the team and coaches. Local vendors will sell the latest designs in Grizzly logo items during the event.

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