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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Dec. 14, 2009

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### **TUESDAY SEND-OFF PLANNED FOR GRIZZLY FOOTBALL TEAM**

#### **MISSOULA —**

For the second time in as many years, The University of Montana Grizzlies will have a shot at winning the national championship football game in Chattanooga, Tenn. The Missoula community is invited to help make this championship odyssey memorable by giving the football players a warm send-off as they head to the airport Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Team buses will depart at 1:30 p.m. from the south entrance of Washington-Grizzly Stadium, under the Griz Vision monitor. Accompanied by Missoula police and fire department escorts, Griz mascot Monte and the UM Spirit Squad, the team will head out on Campus Drive and over the Madison Street Bridge. They'll take a left turn onto Broadway, which they will follow through downtown to Missoula International Airport.

Fans are invited to take a late lunch break, line the route and cheer on their Grizzlies. People can pick up small posters reading "Griz Nation" and "We Believe" at businesses along the route. UM representatives will deliver the posters Tuesday morning to businesses, which are encouraged to decorate their windows and send employees outside to cheer on the Grizzlies as they go by. Posters also can be picked up at on campus at University Relations on the third floor of Brantly Hall.

Tuesday's forecast calls for early snow, turning into rain and sleet later in the day, so bundle up and make some noise for the Griz, who will take on the Villanova Wildcats at 6 p.m. MST Friday, Dec. 18., at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga. ESPN2 will broadcast the game.

UM will welcome back the football team and coaches during halftime when the Griz basketball team takes on the University of California-Riverside Saturday, Dec. 19. Tipoff is at 7 p.m.

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