July 2012 news releases

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MISSOULA –

The University of Montana received a letter from the NCAA on July 30 about the status of the organization’s investigation of UM’s athletics policies and practices.

According to the letter from Julie Roe Lach, NCAA vice president of enforcement, the review of information is continuing. The letter is available online at http://news.umt.edu/2012/07/ncaaletter.pdf.

“As the latest letter from the NCAA indicates, their investigation is ongoing,” said UM President Royce Engstrom. “UM personnel have been fully cooperative and collaborative with the NCAA staff during the past six months, and will continue to be so for the entire course of the investigation.”

In an effort to be as fully engaged as possible in the process, UM has contracted with the Michael L. Buckner Law Firm for representation during the NCAA investigation.

“This partnership will benefit UM and the Athletic Department by providing expertise and extensive knowledge of the enforcement procedures and policies,” said Jean Gee, interim director of UM Athletics. “This, in turn, will benefit the NCAA as we will be able to respond appropriately and efficiently to their inquiries. It will serve the public well in this investigative process for UM to have counsel experienced in areas of NCAA compliance issues, especially a firm possessing strong, credible, and cooperative experience in working with the NCAA staff.”

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JG/js

Local, statewide

073012ncaa

Contact: Jean Gee, interim director, UM Athletics, 406-243-5370, jean.gee@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

From funding for research at Flathead Lake to scholarships for service-minded students, alumni, friends and foundations showed their support for The University of Montana by giving $19.1 million in the 2012 fiscal year, which ended June 30. This comes close to the $20.2 million in gifts in 2011. Laura Brehm, president of the UM Foundation, which manages fundraising for the University, is pleased with this year’s total.

“Alumni and friends are passionate about supporting the University’s mission and they continue to do that even when times are tough,” Brehm says. “The financial markets are volatile and that affects giving. We are especially grateful for gifts that are helping President Royce Engstrom and our deans move forward on their top priorities.”

The Foundation received 14,000 individual gifts in fiscal year 2012. Notable gifts include:

- A $1 million challenge gift for research and monitoring of Flathead Lake. The gift directed to the Flathead Lake Biological Station is from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. It requires a dollar-for-dollar match from other donors.
- Missoula businessman Jim Auger committed $2 million of his estate for scholarships in the School of Business Administration. Recipients will perform community service.
- The Grizzly Scholarship Association pledged $500,000 for matching funds for improvements to athletic facilities. The athletic department is working toward a

$6 million goal for a new student-athlete academic center, renovation of the weight room and locker room, and lights at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. The lights were installed this spring.

“Many of our most loyal donors showed their support by committing a portion of their estate to UM, and this helps us secure the future of the University,” Brehm says.

The Foundation organizes several targeted campaigns each year including the Missoula Business Drive, the UM faculty/staff giving campaign and the Senior Class Gift campaign. In addition, the Foundation employs students to call alumni, friends and parents to invite them to make a gift. The Foundation staff travels across the country meeting with alumni and friends who are interested in supporting the University.

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BH/js

Local, statewide

072612gift

Contact: Erin Greenside, associate director, strategic communications and marketing, UM Foundation, 406-243-5305, erin.greenside@mso.umt.edu.
POLSON –

The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station and the Flathead Lakers have collaborated with a Missoula-based map making company to create a unique, artistic rendition of Flathead Lake to benefit UM’s FLBS.

Xplorer Maps creates hand-drawn and hand-lettered illustrations of significant natural and historical sites across the world. The limited-edition print of Flathead Lake features an antique style complete with illustrations of regional flora and fauna.

The original artwork was created using pen and ink and multiple water color layers. Three hundred signed and numbered Giclee prints are available for $300 each. Each print measures 20 inches by 28 inches. The original artwork will be on display this summer throughout western Montana and will be auctioned online through Sept. 4.

The artist and co-owner Chris Robitaille is an internationally-acclaimed illustrator and oil painter. He and his brother, Greg Robitaille, already partnered up with multiple national parks, including Yellowstone and Glacier, to create and sell artwork to raise awareness and funding for conservation efforts.

The company will donate a substantial portion of the proceeds from the Flathead Lake map to UM’s biological station and the Flathead Lakers to help fund the long-term protection of Flathead Lake and UM’s water-quality monitoring program. The goal is to raise $20,000, which will be used as a matching contribution to the ongoing Flathead Lake Monitoring Challenge Grant.

To view or purchase the map and find more information about the map and the programs that the proceeds will support, visit http://www.xplorermaps.com, http://www.flatheadlakers.org or http://www.umt.edu/flbs.

Contact: Tom Bansak, research scientist, UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-982-3301, tom.bansak@umontana.edu
MISSOULA –

Explore planets, nebulae and distant galaxies during four upcoming free public observing nights at the Blue Mountain Observatory. The events are family-friendly, and children are welcome.

The observatory, located atop Blue Mountain at an elevation of 6,300 feet, is operated by The University of Montana.

Astronomers will be on hand at all events to talk about constellations, how the night sky figures into different cultures and how to find interesting celestial objects with the naked eye or a pair of binoculars.

Observing begins about an hour after sunset, and organizers recommend bringing warm clothes for cool evenings and a small flashlight for the walk from the observatory to the parking lot.

Viewing nights will be canceled if the sky is cloudy or thunderstorms threaten. Before heading up to the observatory, call 406-243-5179 for weather and cancellation updates.

Following is the schedule for public observing nights with approximate starting times:

- Friday, Aug. 10: 10 p.m.
- Friday, Aug. 17: 10 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 7: 9 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 14: 9 p.m.

More information, directions and a map to the observatory are available online at http://www.physics.umt.edu/bluemountain.

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BP

Local

072612star

Contact: Jaylene Naylor, program specialist, UM Department of Physics and Astronomy, 406-243-5179, jaylene.naylor@umontana.edu
Researchers Discover Biological Mechanism For Growing Massive Animal Weapons, Ornaments - UM News - The University Of Montana

MISSOULA –

In the animal kingdom, huge weapons such as elk antlers or ornaments like peacock feathers are sexy. Their extreme size attracts potential mates and warns away lesser rivals.

Now University of Montana scientists and their partners have discovered a developmental mechanism they think may be responsible for the excessive growth of threatening horns or come-hither tail feathers. Published July 25 in the online edition of Science (http://www.sciencemag.org/), the research reveals a mechanism to explain both the size of these traits, and the incredible variation among males of the same species – why some beetles, for instance, grow massive horns while their fellows grow nothing but nubbins.

“Our research explains how these enormous traits get to be so enormous,” said Doug Emlen, a professor and evolutionary biologist in UM’s Division of Biological Sciences. “People have known for 100 years that the best males produce the biggest structures, but nobody has really understood how. Our work looks under the hood to explain why so many sexually selected structures get so massive.”

The researchers discovered when they disturbed the insulin-signaling pathway in Japanese rhinoceros beetles – big insects that can grow horns two-thirds the length of their bodies – the horns were far less likely to grow. In fact, horn growth was stunted eight times as much as growth of the wings, or the rest of the body. They interpret this to mean that the exaggerated structures – the horns – are more sensitive to signaling through this physiological pathway than are other traits.

During the experiment, Emlen and his team injected a cocktail of double-stranded RNA into the beetle larvae to shut down the desired insulin pathway gene. Within 72 hours normal insulin signaling had resumed, but by then horn growth was stunted. Researchers found the genitalia grew normally despite the shutdown, and the wings and bodies were slightly affected. The horns, however, experienced major changes.

“We found an intuitive candidate mechanism – the insulin-signaling pathway – and when we perturbed it with our genetic experiment, we confirmed what we think the pathway should be doing to these beetles,” Emlen said. “There is a hormone signal secreted by the brain that circulates through the whole animal. It communicates to the different cells and tissues and essentially tells them how much to grow.”

Hormone levels reflect the physiological condition of each animal, with high circulating levels in well-fed, dominant individuals and lower levels in poorly fed or less-fit individuals. When tissues are sensitive to these signals, as most tissues are, then their final sizes scale with the overall quality and size of the animal. Because of this mechanism, big beetles have larger eyes, legs and wings than smaller beetles.

Emlen said the horns are exquisitely sensitive to these insulin signals – more sensitive than other structures. Developing horns in big, fit, well-fed males are drenched with the hormone, spurring exaggerated horn growth. On the flip side, a small, less-fit male receive less of the horn-boosting hormone, stunting growth of its weapon.

Emlen said this process explains how horns can range from massive to nonexistent among male beetles of the same species and why the size of such exaggerated, showy traits accurately reflects the overall quality of the males who wield them. He said the results likely are applicable to other species beyond rhinoceros beetles, since additional studies have tied this same physiological pathway to growth of red deer antlers and crab pincer claws.

“Horns and antlers matter,” Emlen said. “Animals pay attention to them when they size each other up for battle. And females pay attention to horns or are attracted to males with really big tails. Why? Because only the best of the best can have really big horns or tails.”

Emlen is the lead author of the Science article, titled “A mechanism of extreme growth and reliable signaling in sexually selected ornaments and weapons.” His co-authors are UM’s Annika Johns, Ian Warren and Laura Corley Lavine of Washington State University, and Ian Dworkin of Michigan State University. Their work was funded by the National Science Foundation.

“We’re the first ones to make the link by explicitly tying the insulin pathway to the evolution of these kinds of male weapons,” Lavine said. “The discovery of the actual mechanism might now open new avenues of study for how exaggerated traits evolved, their genetic basis and the evolution of animal signals.”
Researchers Discover Biological Mechanism For Growing Massive Animal Weapons, Ornaments - UM News - The University Of Montana

Photo caption: UM evolutionary biologist Doug Emlen with two of his Japanese rhinoceros beetle research subjects (Credit: Laurie Lane)

CBS
State, select national publications
072512horn

Contact: Doug Emlen, professor, UM Division of Biological Sciences, 406-243-2535, douglas.emlen@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Employers and student workers can connect at the Student Job Fair to be held at The University of Montana on Thursday, Aug. 30.

The fair, hosted by UM’s Office of Career Services, is free and will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. It is open to any business, organization or department that needs college students for part-time jobs, internships or volunteer opportunities. Employers looking to hire work-study and non-work-study students for on-campus and off-campus positions also are invited to participate. Employers can register online at http://www.umt.edu/studentjobs/employer.

Last year 47 employers and more than 500 students attended the fair.

Registered employers will receive a career-fair booth, snacks and free parking. The Office of Career Services will have students on hand to help employers bring in their materials and assist with setup.

For more information, call Janay Whisman, student employment coordinator, at 406-243-5627 or email studentjobs@umontana.edu.

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JW/all

local

071712jobs

Contact: Janay Whisman, student employment coordinator, UM Office of Career Services, 406-243-5627, studentjobs@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Take that interim tag off of Grizzly football coach Mick Delaney’s official title at The University of Montana.

The veteran coach, named the interim head football coach at UM in late March, has signed a two-year contract, which expires on Jan. 31, 2014. The contract was announced July 26 by Jean Gee, UM’s interim athletic director, in a press conference that was held in the Canyon Club at Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

Delaney has coached 46 seasons – 30 of those at the collegiate level.

He replaced Robin Pflugrad, whose contract was not renewed after serving as UM’s head coach in 2010 and 2011. Delaney recently completed his fourth season as an assistant coach at Montana, working with the running backs. He was also an associate head coach.

“When I think of the qualities that are needed in a head coach, I think of, among other things, expertise, mentor, leader,” Gee said, “but above all else I think of integrity. When I contemplated those qualities, there really was no question that the right thing to do for this team and all of Griz Nation was to remove the interim title and offer Mick Delaney a two-year contract.

“Mick brings stability to the program and leadership that will result in success for our student-athletes both on and off the field,” Gee said. “I am confident that our football program is in good hands with Mick and his talented coaching staff and look forward to them guiding it to even greater achievements.”

“This is a time to look toward a strong and vibrant future for Grizzly Athletics,” UM President Royce Engstrom said. “In Mick Delaney, we have chosen a head coach who will lead us into that future. He is highly motivated himself, but he is also an exceptional motivator of others, including the players, coaches and staff around him. He understands the important role that Grizzly football plays at The University of Montana, and he has quickly earned our trust and respect.

"Coach Delaney will strengthen even further the grand tradition of Grizzly football, and he will work tirelessly to provide a supportive and competitive environment for our student-athletes," Engstrom said. "Under his leadership, fans should look forward to a strong and exciting season. We will do all we can to support Coach Delaney and the team. I know that Griz fans will as well."

Originally from Butte, Delaney came to Montana from Colorado State where he was an assistant coach for former head coach Sonny Lubick for 15 seasons from 1993 to 2007. Former Griz head coach Bobby Hauck hired Delaney in 2008, while Pflugrad retained him as the lone official holdover from Hauck’s staff.

Before his stint at CSU, Delaney was the head football coach and athletic director at his alma mater, The University of Montana Western in Dillon, in 1991 and '92. He coached on Lubick’s staff at Montana State University from 1979 to ’80. He served as the athletic director at Montana Tech in Butte from 1983 to ’85. He was an assistant football coach under former UM head coach Jack Swarthout from 1968 to ’69. He began his coaching career in his hometown at Butte Central High School (1964-67) as head wrestling and assistant football coach.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Montana Western in 1964, and he is an inaugural inductee into the UMW College Sports Hall of Fame.

Mick and his wife, Cheri, have three children – Mike Delaney, Shauna Basile and Melissa Ossello – and nine grandchildren.

Coach Delaney Coaching Timeline

2012-present: The University of Montana, Head Coach
2008-11: The University of Montana, Associate Head Coach & Running Backs
1993-2007: Colorado State University, Running Backs
1991-92: The University of Montana Western, Head Coach/Athletic Director
1983-85: Montana Tech, Director of Athletics
1976-80: Montana State University, Assistant Football Coach
1968-69: The University of Montana, Head Wrestling Coach & Assistant Football Coach
Griz Football Mentor Delaney Inks Two-Year Contract - UM News - The University Of Montana

Contact: UM Intercollegiate Athletics, 406-243-4749, .
MISSOULA –

Montana children’s well-being ranks better than average in three out of four categories, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s 2012 National KIDS COUNT Data Book.

This year’s Data Book, the 23rd such report, reflects advances in child-development research since the first Data Book was released in 1990, featuring an improved foundation in its decade-old system of ranking states on their level of child well-being.

Growing from 10 to 16 child-level indicators, the index now features four domains—economic well-being, education, health, and family and community—and offers a more detailed picture of how U.S. children are faring.

Montana’s 28th overall ranking is determined by its rank of 20th in economic well-being, 13th in education, 50th in health and 13th in family and community.

The fact that Montana has improved its ranking in the area of economic well-being since before the recession may come as a surprise to many, according to Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT. However, the improvement is relative and is due primarily to other states doing substantially worse than Montana, not to Montana doing particularly well.

“Family economic success provides a critical foundation for healthy child development, in turn promoting success in adulthood,” Dillon said.

Likewise, promoting successful educational achievement promotes future success by making it easier to keep children on track to stay in school and graduate. The 2012 national Data Book reveals that Montana has not lost ground in terms of fourth-grade reading proficiency or high school students graduating on time, and has actually made gains in eighth-grade math proficiency and increased the share of 3- and 4-year-olds who attend preschool.

According to the report, Montana ranks last in the health domain, despite many positive developments. The state actually has improved its substance-abuse rates among teens, increased the number and percent of children who have health insurance, and decreased the death rate for children and teens. But other states have improved much more, thus forcing Montana down in the rankings, Dillon said.

“A child’s health is the foundation for overall development, and being born healthy is the first step toward increasing the life chances of any child,” Dillon said. “Poverty, poor nutrition, lack of preventive health care, substance abuse, maternal depression and family violence can all put a child’s health at risk.”

To achieve improved behavior and academic outcomes in children, and ultimately successful adults, families and communities need the human and social resources to properly care for and nurture children in their early years, Dillon said.

“Proper care and nurturing leads to children having better social, emotional, language, and learning outcomes,” Dillon said, pointing to facts such as Montana having a high rate of children living in two-parent households and a decreasing rate of children living in high-poverty areas.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation points out three influential factors that will make a difference for the well-being of children in Montana:

- Family and economic security are critical, and the most effective way to ensure this is through a two-generation strategy that strengthens parents’ work attachment, income and assets while at the same time investing in their children’s health and educational development.
- Strong, nurturing, two-parent families can protect children from economic hardship and other risks. We need proven, evidence-based innovations within public systems to keep children connected to their families or other caring adults when families encounter crises or our children and youth get in trouble with the law.
- Community investments that focus on the health, social and economic well-being of neighborhoods can provide a strong foundation for children’s futures. Research has shown that low-income children living in supportive communities are more likely to thrive than their low-income peers who live in concentrated poverty or high-crime areas.

The KIDS COUNT Data Book with state-by-state rankings and supplemental data launches at 12:01 a.m. EDT, Wednesday, July 25 at http://datacenter.kidscount.org.
Follow the Annie E. Casey Foundation on this issue on Twitter @aecfkidscount and on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/KIDSCOUNT.

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State

Contact: Thane Dillon, director, Montana KIDS COUNT, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-2780, thale.dillon@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Six Big Sky Country businesses will be featured in an upcoming episode of the award-winning, student-produced MontanaPBS television program “Business: Made in Montana.” The program, produced by students of The University of Montana School of Journalism’s radio/TV department, will premiere at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 16.

The episode will feature segments on the following Montana businesses:

- NOMAD Global Communication Solutions of Columbia Falls, which integrates voice, video and data communication technologies into customized mobile command vehicles.
- Béquet Confections of Bozeman, which designs and creates high-end gourmet caramels made with all-natural ingredients.
- American Eagle Instruments of Missoula, where pride, precision, and a friendly atmosphere make it one of the top-selling dental instrument businesses in the world.
- Bozeman Reel Company, which puts people on the river with Montana-made fly-fishing reels.
- Seneca Boards of Bozeman, which manufactures and distributes custom high-performance skis and snowboards.
- Café Cebada of Manhattan, which markets a caffeine-free substitute for coffee.

“The students show a variety of Montana businesses – some established and some just getting started,” said Ray Ekness, faculty adviser and UM professor. “We’re glad we can show the wide range of companies who are making products in Montana.”

The program will be hosted by Brin Merkley, a senior journalism student from Anaconda, and will air again at 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 18, and at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 19.

“Business: Made in Montana” has featured more than 170 businesses during the 19 years the program has been produced. In 2004 and 2007, “Business: Made in Montana” received the Student Emmy Award from the National Association of Television Arts and Sciences-Northwest Chapter.

For more information call Ray Ekness at 406-243-4088 or e-mail ray.ekness@umontana.edu.

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BP

State

072312made

Contact: Ray Ekness, professor, UM School of Journalism, Department of Radio-TV, 406-243-4088, ray.ekness@umontana.edu
MISSOULA –

University Dining Services at The University of Montana recently announced that their Farm to College program set annual records for purchases of locally raised or produced products.

"According to my purchasing analysis we passed the $1 million mark for local and sustainable purchases for the first time this fiscal year," said FTC Coordinator Ian Finch. "A combined grand total of $1,103,606 was made for purchases from both FTC and University Dining Services Sustainable. That's money we've recirculated back into the Montana economy."

This past year’s FTC purchases totaled $764,944, an increase from the previous year's total of $604,606. University Dining Services Sustainable, which deals with local vendors and businesses that make the effort to create or produce products in an environmentally sustainable way, totaled $338,662 in purchases. The combined total represents 27.9 percent of UDS' total food budget.

As one of the national pioneers in the field of advocating and implementing the concept of “buying local,” FTC does business with an average of 75 local farmers, ranchers and food producers annually. In May 2013 the program will celebrate its 10th anniversary as part of University Dining Services.

For information about UM’s Farm to College program, call Finch at 406-243-4042 or email ian.finch@mso.umt.edu.

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JO/js

Western Montana

072312farm

Contact: Jerry O’Malley, creative director, University Dining Services, 406-243-6433, jerry.omalley@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA —

Two exhibitions devoted to the development of Impressionism and Realism by some of history’s most notable artists will open Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Montana Museum of Art & Culture at The University of Montana. The exhibitions, “Labor & Leisure: Impressionist and Realist Masterpieces from a Private Collection” and “Impressionism: Masterpieces on Paper” will be on view through Jan. 5, 2013.

An opening reception for both exhibitions will take place from 5-7 p.m. in UM’s Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center lobby. Food, beverages and music will be provided. The event is free and open to the public, with a suggested donation of $5.

“Labor & Leisure: Impressionist and Realist Masterpieces from a Private Collection” brings together select Impressionist and Realist masterpieces that document radical changes to 19th century society and culture. Included are important 19th- and early 20th-century artists Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, William Adolphe Bouguereau, John William Waterhouse, Jules Breton, Pierre Eugene Montezin, Léon August Lhermitte, Stanhope Alexander Forbes, Eugène Boudin, Edouard Bisson, John William Godward and Sir Alfred James Munnings. Some of these works have not been seen publicly for decades.

“The Impressionists are among the most widely known and loved artworks ever,” said Barbara Koostra, director of MMAC. “This is an incredible opportunity for the people of Montana to experience world-class art.”

During the Industrial Revolution, technology and transportation advanced, rural populations declined, urban centers flourished, occupational opportunities expanded, wages increased and labor laws were established. Using masterpieces from a private collection, this exhibition explores themes of industry and agriculture, city and country, and labor and leisure.

“Impressionism: Masterpieces on Paper” combines selections from the MMAC Permanent Collection with select loans to highlight rare etchings and lithographs that illustrate the development of Impressionism. Barbizon masterpieces by Félix Henri Bracquemond, Jean-François Millet and Charles-François Daubigny are combined with the satirical lithographs of Honoré Daumier and rare Impressionist prints from Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Berthe Morisot, Edgar Degas, Jean Louis Forain, Gustave Leheutre and Jean-Baptiste Armand Guillaumin.

Several lectures are scheduled throughout the exhibitions, including:

- UM professor of art history and criticism H. Rafael Chacón will present a lecture titled “Tensions Between City and Country in Art of the Belle Époque” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 26, in the PAR/TV Center Montana Theatre.
- MMAC Curator of Art Brandon Reintjes will present a lecture titled “The 19th Century French Realism of Jean-François Millet” at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14, in the PAR/TV Center Masquer Theatre.
- Gloria Groom, the David and Mary Winton Green curator of 19th century European painting and sculpture at The Art Institute of Chicago and author of “The Age of French Impressionism,” will present a lecture titled “The School of Nature in French Art: Realism to Impressionism” as part of the President’s Lecture Series at 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, in the George and Jane Dennison Theatre.
- In addition to lectures, guided tours will be available throughout the exhibitions.

MMAC’s hours are noon to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday. For more information or to see a schedule of guided tours, call 406-243-2019 or visit http://www.umt.edu/montanamuseum.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: Digital images of select items included in the exhibitions are available upon request by calling 406-243-2019.

BP

Western Montana
Contact: Brandon Reintjes, curator of art, Montana Museum of Art and Culture, 406-243-2019, brandon.reintjes@mso.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

In Montana 34 percent of working families are low-income or have household incomes below the federal poverty threshold of $18,530 for a three-person household, according to the latest issue of the Montana Business Quarterly.

Jobs such as security guards, nurses’ aides, home health care aides, child care workers, educational assistants, ambulance drivers, bank tellers and pharmacy assistants are considered low-wage, low-reward positions, according to the infographic titled “The Working Poor,” which was compiled by Thale Dillon, director of Montana KIDS COUNT at The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

“The typical working poor person is a white female with a high school diploma and with family responsibilities,” Dillon said.

The likelihood of being working poor is the highest in two decades, Dillon said. In 2010, there were 10.5 million individuals in the U.S. classified as working poor with incomes below the poverty level.

Other articles in the summer issue of the Montana Business Quarterly include:

- “Transportation Systems Key to Montana’s Future;” and
- “Manufacturing Outlook: Modest Improvement and Employment Growth in Some Sectors.”

The Montana Business Quarterly is published by UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research and is partially supported by the Missoula Federal Credit Union. Annual subscriptions are available for $35. For more information or to subscribe, go to http://www.bber.umt.edu or call 406-243-5113.

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MISSOULA –

Montana’s new energy boom has breathed life and vitality into the eastern half of the state, drawing workers and investors from around the country and the world. But those who remember the energy bust of the 1980s may be inclined toward caution, and even skepticism, in the face of recent developments.

University of Montana economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin will address what is different and the same about the energy boom unfolding today compared to those of Montana’s past during the Seventh Annual Midyear Economic Update seminar series.

This year’s series, “Five Questions Montanans Should Ask About the Energy Boom,” will be held in seven cities around the state. The first seminar kicks off in Kalispell on Thursday, Aug. 2. The session will be held from 12 to 1:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn and includes lunch. Each seminar costs $25 and is scheduled as follows:

- **Billings** – 7-8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 7, Crowne Plaza. Includes breakfast.
- **Bozeman** – 12-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 7, Best Western Plus GranTree. Includes lunch.
- **Great Falls** – 7-8:30 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 8, Hilton Garden Inn. Includes breakfast.
- **Helena** – 12-1:30 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 8, Red Lion Colonial Inn. Includes lunch.
- **Butte** – 7-8:30 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 9, War Bonnet Inn. Includes breakfast.
- **Missoula** – 12-1:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 9, Hilton Garden Inn. Includes lunch.

The event is co-sponsored by the Montana Chamber of Commerce and UM’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research. For more information, visit [http://www.bber.umt.edu](http://www.bber.umt.edu) or call BBER at 406-243-5113.

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CH/all
Local, Dailies
072312myeu

**Contact:** Patrick Barkey, director, UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research, 406-243-5113,patrick.barkey@umontana.edu
MISSOULA –

Beginning autumn semester, graduates of the Montana Law Enforcement Academy may earn 18 credits toward a new associate of arts police science degree program at Missoula College of The University of Montana (formerly the College of Technology).

Missoula College UM, Montana University System and academy officials have worked on this effort for two years.

MC, the UM College of Arts and Sciences, and UM’s Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences created a new degree path, Fundamentals of Police Science, in which academy credits represent the first semester of a new four-semester associate of arts degree.

The Montana Board of Regents gave the final approval to the degree path and the MLEA credit transfer piece in May.

“The collaboration between the academy and The University of Montana is exciting and has opened doors for students who might otherwise not seek higher education,” said Lynn Stocking, MC associate dean.

The program is designed so MC graduates can enroll in a UM bachelor degree program and their credits will transfer seamlessly to the central campus.

Kevin Olson, administrator of MLEA, said the program may prove especially appealing to military veterans, who now make up about 50 percent of academy graduates and can use their G.I. Bill benefits to pay for their college education.

“Higher education is increasingly important for law enforcement,” Olson said. “Not just for the individual officer, but for the profession as a whole. We encourage our graduates to continue with their learning.”

The program would work this way: MLEA graduates wanting to participate in the program would have to co-enroll in the college or enroll after graduation from MLEA. After graduating from the academy, students would need an additional three semesters to earn the 60 credits necessary to complete their associate of arts degree. Those 60 credits would transfer to the central UM campus for students interested in earning a bachelor’s degree.

The academy, part of the Montana Department of Justice, is Montana’s premier educational and training institution for law enforcement officers in many areas, including city, county and tribal officers. Located just north of Helena, the academy is open only to employed law enforcement officers. Typically, Olson said, an agency hires someone as an officer under the condition that he or she graduate from the academy.

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CBS

State

072012dgre

Contact: Cathy Corr, Applied Arts and Sciences department chair, Missoula College UM, 406-243-7903, cathy.corr@mso.umt.edu; Lynn Stocking, associate dean, Missoula College UM, 406-243-7801, lynn.stocking@umontana.edu.
POLSON –

The University of Montana’s Flathead Lake Biological Station invites the public to a free open house from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 1.

The station is located 17.5 miles north of Polson and 14 miles south of Bigfork along Highway 35 on the east shore of Flathead Lake.

This year’s open house will include demonstration boat trips, activities for children and science kiosks presented by FLBS researchers. Students, faculty and staff will be on hand to talk about FLBS research and education on Flathead Lake.

The popular boat tours and research demos take place at 1:05, 2:05, 3:05, 3:15 and 4:05 p.m. Upon arrival at the station, visitors can check scheduled times for geocaching adventures.

Jack Stanford, director and Bierman Professor of Ecology, will present “What We Do at the Biological Station.”

For more information about the Flathead Lake Biological Station, visit http://www.umt.edu/flbs or call 406-982-3301.

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AB

Western Montana

071812lake

Contact: UM Flathead Lake Biological Station, 406-982-3301, flbs@flbs.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

A University of Montana scientific evaluation of a forest restoration project on the Flathead National Forest in western Montana has found promising early results.

“Our monitoring results from the Meadow Smith old-growth restoration project show that the treatments successfully restored spatial elements of old-growth forests,” said Andrew Larson, a UM assistant professor of forest ecology. Larson is lead author of the most detailed analysis yet of restoration treatment effects on forest spatial patterns. The work was published online July 18 in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research (http://www.nrcresearchpress.com/journal/cjfr).

Larson and his co-authors, former UM graduate student Kyle Stover and UM associate research professor Chris Keyes, created maps of tree locations and then used spatial statistics to show how thinning treatments changed tree patterns. In a second analysis, they compared tree maps from restored forests to tree maps from historical old-growth forests to evaluate how effective the treatments were at restoring old-growth conditions.

The new study looks at forest restoration treatments in the Southwestern Crown Collaborative (SWCC) project area, a 1.5 million acre area spanning the Blackfoot, Clearwater and Swan river valleys that encompasses portions of the Flathead, Helena and Lolo national forests. Restoration work developed through the SWCC is funded by the U.S. Forest Service Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP).

Forest restoration has been a top priority for the Forest Service since 2009, when U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced his national vision for America’s forests and Congress created the CFLRP. Vilsack’s national vision identifies restoration as a driving principle of forest management, and the CFLRP provides additional funding for the Forest Service to implement large restoration projects.

One of the big challenges foresters face is incorporating spatial heterogeneity into forest restoration treatments. Spatial heterogeneity refers to variation in how trees are spaced with respect to each other. Variable tree spacing causes different levels of canopy closure within forests, which regulates important ecological functions.

“You can get an idea of why spatial heterogeneity matters by thinking about the arrangement of furniture in your living room,” Larson said. “Push all of your couches, tables and chairs into the corner, and you won’t be happy with the result. The altered arrangement limits their functionality.”

In forests, dense tree clumps provide hiding cover for wildlife, while openings and areas with widely spaced trees let plenty of sunlight reach the forest floor, helping understory plants flourish and tree seedlings get established. Variable tree spacing also affects wildfire behavior and the spread of insects and diseases from tree to tree.

“But this project successfully restored spatial aspects of old-growth forests, it was largely due to the presence of many live, old ponderosa pine and western larch trees in the project area and their designation for retention in the thinning treatments,” Larson said.

At many sites where restoration is planned, the largest pine and larch trees have been harvested or the pines were killed by beetles. He said restoring spatial heterogeneity at such sites will be much more challenging.

“The clear implication is that foresters will need to directly address spatial patterns in the design and implementation of restoration treatments,” Larson said.

The Meadow Smith project was designed before the Forest Service received funding for SWCC, but it was one of the first forest restoration projects to be implemented in the SWCC project landscape. The monitoring results provide new information for the collaborative and the Forest Service that will help fine-tune future jointly designed restoration projects.

Monitoring of understory plants, surface fuels and large down wood is also under way but was not part of the results published July 18.

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AL/cbs
Contact: Andrew Larson, assistant professor of forest ecology, UM College of Forestry and Conservation, 406-243-5532, andrew.larson@cfc.umt.edu.
MISSOULA –

The National Association of College and University Food Services recently chose University of Montana Dining Services Director Mark LoParco as its president-elect.

The election was held in Boston on July 13 at the NACUFS National Conference. LaParco accepted the three-year commitment to hold the prestigious volunteer position. He immediately assumed the president-elect title and will serve until next summer’s national conference when he will begin his one-year term as president. In 2015 he will serve for one year as past president.

“I anxiously await the opportunity to bring my passion and deep commitment to sustainable business practices to the national stage,” LoParco said.

From 2005 to 2006, LoParco served as president of the NACUFS Continental Region. His also has served as co-chair for the National Education Committee, during which time he facilitated various regional and national education programs.

A leader in the local foods movement, LoParco is a popular speaker and presenter at regional and national conferences where he delivers presentations focusing on sustainability and supporting local agriculture.

For the past 25 years, LoParco has focused his work within NACUFS on developing and delivering high-quality educational programs. His goal is to continue to champion education and to work closely with the NEC to explore and employ cutting-edge technology in the delivery of educational programming.

LoParco is an enthusiastic advocate of developing a NACUFS Sustainability Summit. He aims to serve as a catalyst for the NEC’s educational series on sustainable business practices in college food service. LoParco also is a valuable resource for Montana state legislators and sustainability-advocate groups.

LoParco and students from the UM’s Environmental Studies program established UM’s Farm to College program in 2003. The program has been a recognized pioneer and leader in the promotion of buying locally grown and produced food products and other goods.

A past member of the UM Recycling Oversight Committee and UM Sustainable Campus Committee, LoParco is a two-time recipient of the Greening UM Award. He currently is serving as NACUFS’ 2012 Sustainability Summit Project Team chair. He also has recently been a judge for the first NACUFS Sustainability Awards.

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Contact: Jerry O’Malley, creative director, University Dining Services, 406-243-6433, jerry.omalley@mso.umt.edu.
BRANTLEY GILBERT TO PERFORM AT UM

MISSOULA –

Country music star Brantley Gilbert will perform Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Adams Center at The University of Montana. Special guests Uncle Kracker, Greg Bates and Brian Davis will kick off the show, which begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are $20 for balcony seats and $35 for floor and pit seats. They can be purchased at the Adams Center Box Office, The Source in the University Center, MSO Hub, Worden's Market and Southgate Mall. Tickets also are available online at http://www.griztix.com or by calling 406-243-4051 or 1-888-MONTANA.

Gilbert will visit Missoula as part of his "Hell on Wheels" tour, which is his first headlining tour after performing as an opener for Eric Church and Toby Keith.

As an accomplished songwriter, Gilbert penned several No. 1 hits including Jason Aldean’s “My Kinda Party” and “Dirt Road Anthem.” His own singles “Country Must Be Country Wide” and “You Don’t Know Her Like I Do” both reached No. 1 on the charts.

For more information on the tour, visit http://www.facebook.com/brantleygilbertmusic.

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AB

071612gilb

Western Montana

Contact: Zoe Donovan, marketing coordinator, UM Productions, 406-243-4719, marketing@umproductions.org; Mandi Zilner, Knitting Factory, 208-343-8883, mandi@knittingfactory.com.
MISSOULA –

The University of Montana now has the state’s first nationally accredited master of public health program. The Council on Education for Public Health notified UM administrators of the accreditation approval on July 6.

An MPH degree prepares professionals to identify health problems and needs, consider mechanisms to meet those needs and assure the essential services to protect and promote patient health. Graduates serve as competent practitioners, researchers and teachers who carry out broad health functions in local, state, national and international settings.

“We are preparing public health practitioners who will use global insight to improve the health of the people of Montana and other rural areas,” said Craig Molgaard, chairman of the School of Public and Community Health Sciences. “We expect the people of our state to benefit immensely from our accredited MPH program.”

Molgaard said the MPH program, which is part of UM’s College of Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences, earned five years of accreditation from the national Council on Education for Public Health following an intensive self-study process and site visit. The accreditation runs until 2017 and is the maximum period allowed for initial accreditation of a new MPH program. More than 50 graduate students now are enrolled in the web-based program.

“Faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of the program from the public health community in Montana – both regionally and nationally – worked extremely hard to achieve this accreditation,” he said. “The support of our ‘village’ was critical to achieving this success.”

For more information visit http://www.health.umt.edu/schools/pch/default.php.

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CBS
State
071112hlth

Contact: Craig Molgaard, professor and chair, UM School of Public and Community Health Sciences, 406-243-4445, craig.molgaard@umontana.edu
MISSOULA –

When a 100th anniversary rolls around, someone needs to throw a party. That’s exactly what MontanaPBS will do this summer and the guest of honor is Montana 4-H.

The anniversary gift is “4-H: Six Montana Stories,” a 90-minute documentary that follows six Montana 4-H kids for a full year. As they work on their projects, the youngsters learn discipline and responsibility while facing and overcoming challenges. The program premieres on MontanaPBS at 8 p.m. Monday, July 23.

From its first club project in 1912 – a corn contest – Montana 4-H has kept its focus on cultivating boys and girls with character, self-confidence and physical and intellectual strength. Much about the organization has changed, much hasn’t. Today Montana 4-H offers more than 200 different projects and approximately one out of six school-age youth in the state are 4-H members.

MontanaPBS producer Gus Chambers had his own ideas about what 4-H meant. He’d spent most of his television career making historical documentaries about warehouse explosions in Butte or bear attacks in Glacier Park and was looking for something new and outside his comfort zone.

“I thought 4-H was just sows, cows and plows,” Chambers said, “a quaint slice of Americana that was rapidly disappearing from the cultural landscape. I was completely wrong.”

Chambers, with help from the staff at the Montana 4-H Center for Youth Development at Montana State University, selected six young people to profile in the documentary.

“We weren’t looking for over-achievers,” Chambers said. “We wanted average kids who would grow and change over the course of their 4-H year.”

The diverse group has different interests, projects, goals, backgrounds and geographies. Chambers set out with his camera, travelling more than 22,000 miles, to chronicle their changes and their challenges, and to learn what it means to get something “4-H done.”

Garret Jolma from Winnett was just 13 years old when he was chosen. His projects include wind energy, gardening and entomology. He receives help with his bug collection from townspeople who spot an unfamiliar insect. The goal of his wind energy project is to find the best spot in town to erect a wind turbine.

In Denton viewers meet Mitch Ward, a fourth-generation 4-H’er. His great-grandfather started the first 4-H club in Teton County. In addition to his pig and lamb projects, Ward is involved in several other organizations, including Future Farmers of America and plays just about every sport in high school. He also mentors his younger sister, Morgan, on her first-year 4-H project.

At age 12, Jordan Stoltz from Valier had already applied for and received a loan to start her own hog breeding business. Unfortunately a long, harsh winter leaves Stoltz with a failing business and a loan payment that’s due. For Jordan it’s a valuable lesson in responsibility and community.

4-H is new to Wheatland County. The chapter was started by the first extension agent the area has had in 70 years. Riley Reed is the daughter of the new extension agent and Chambers follows her projects in horse, cooking, junior leadership and rabbit.

“You’d think having a mom as an extension agent would be full of perks,” said Chambers. “Actually, it works against Riley. Neither one of them wants to give the slightest impression of favoritism.”

Hardin freshman Katie McCleary moved from Pretty Eagle School, a Catholic academy for Crow and Northern Cheyenne kids, to Hardin High School. Katie’s 4-H friends showed her around and smoothed the transition. Her project is teen leadership, and she’s mentoring children in the pre-4-H program called Cloverbuds and giving younger 4-H’ers a hands-up.

Finally, there’s Beker Cuelho from Manhattan. He’s the oldest in a large family that has eight other 4-H members. Cuelho mentors his younger siblings in their projects while pursuing his own in photography, film making and robotics.
“One of the most important features of 4-H is leadership,” says Chambers, “and Beker is a born leader.”

Chambers says he hopes his documentary will broaden the horizons of viewers who know as little about 4-H as he did when he started.

“And on the flip side, I’m hoping that viewers who are 4-H alums will catch a glimpse of themselves in at least one of the six stories,” he said.

“4-H: Six Montana Stories” was made possible with funding from the Montana Farm Bureau Federation, the Greater Montana Foundation and The University of Montana.

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**NOTE TO MEDIA:** High resolution photographs are available at the “4-H: Six Montana Stories” pressroom at [http://www.montanapbs.org/4HSixMontanaStories/pressroom/](http://www.montanapbs.org/4HSixMontanaStories/pressroom/).

WMjs

Local, hometowns, statewide

071012mpbs

**Contact:** Gus Chambers, MontanaPBS producer, 406-243-4093, gus.chambers@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

Don Loranger, director of the Defense Critical Language and Culture Training Program at The University of Montana’s Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, was appointed to the National Security Education Board by President Barack Obama on July 5.

The National Security Education Board oversees the National Security Education Program, which aims to enhance national security by increasing the United States’ capacity to deal effectively with foreign cultures and languages.

The Defense Critical Language and Culture Training Program works with the Department of Defense to provide U.S. troops with the critical language and culture training needed to complete their missions. Language courses include Arabic and Mandarin Chinese, and the program also offers cultural competency courses for Arab countries, Afghanistan, Iran and China. The Mansfield Center at UM houses programs that embody the core interests and characteristics of Sen. Mike Mansfield’s career, including U.S. relations with Asia and ethics and public affairs.

Loranger is a Bigfork resident and a retired U.S. Air Force major general. He served in the Air Force from 1966 until 1996. Loranger also is a UM alumnus and was commissioned through the University’s Air Force ROTC program.

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JS

Local, hometown

070612lang

Contact: Don Loranger, director, Defense Critical Language and Culture Training Program at UM’s Mansfield Center, 406-243-3600, donald.loranger@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

KBGA College Radio 89.9 FM will present the inaugural "End of Summer Family Fair" on Saturday, Aug. 4, on the Oval at The University of Montana. The event will engage Missoula-area children and families with a multifaceted educational, arts and entertainment event during the final days of summer. The event is free and open to the public.

“We hope this event will strengthen the ties between The University of Montana and the Missoula community at large,” said Sean Janzer, KBGA promotions director.

The event will feature local organizations and artists including: Missoula Independent, Big Sky Bouncers, Jump For Joy, Garden City Harvest, Walking Stick Toys, UM Lommasson Gardens, Associated Students of UM Child Care, University Dining Services, Missoula Children’s Theatre, Missoula Art Museum, MISMO Gymnastics, Families First Children’s Museum, TLC Bikes and ASUM’s Student Involvement Network.

Zootown Arts Community Center will provide free screen printing, spectrUM will host interactive sciences exhibits and Missoula Osprey’s Ollie will make a guest appearance.

Musical performances will feature Whippletree, The Skurfs, Lee McAfee, KBGA DJs and more.

For more information call Janzer at 406-243-6758.

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SJ/all

Local

070612fair

Contact: Sean janzer, KBGA promotions director, 406-243-6758, promotions@kbga.org.
HAMILTON –

The Golden College Program allows Montana senior citizens to take college classes at the Bitterroot College of The University of Montana at greatly reduced rates.

Golden College participants may audit classes or take classes for credit. The program’s tuition waiver saves students nearly $300 for one three-credit course. Program participants still will need to pay applicable college fees.

To be eligible for the program, participants must be at least 65 years old prior to the start of the semester and they must be a Montana resident for admission purposes.

For more information call Kathleen O’Leary at 406-375-0100 or email kathleen.oleary@umontana.edu.

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Contact: Kathleen O’Leary, enrollment and advising coordinator, Bitterroot College UM, 406-375-0100, kathleen.oleary@umontana.edu.
MISSOULA –

The School of Extended & Lifelong Learning at The University of Montana has created a buzz with its new Beekeeping Certificate Program, which offers apprentice, journeyman and master levels of expertise.

Due to popular demand, the apprentice-level course will be offered a second time from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the weekends of July 21-22 and July 28-29 (four total class meetings) at the Fort Missoula Research Complex and Apiary. The course will be taught by one of the nation’s premier bee research teams.

Jerry Bromenshenk, co-founder of Bee Alert Technology Inc. and statewide director of Montana’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, will lead the course, which includes classroom lectures and hands-on experience. Bee Alert research team members Scott Debnam, a senior field technician, and Phillip Welch, senior lab supervisor, also will teach.

Course participants will learn the basics of keeping honeybees, including bee biology and care of bees. Students will gain firsthand experience in caretaking and bee handling as they learn to recognize and treat common honeybee ailments and pests. By the end of the course, students should be able to manage honeybee colonies for maximum health and honey production.

Upon completion, participants will receive either two continuing education units or, for an additional cost, one academic credit through UM’s Division of Biological Sciences.

Registration is open, and enrollment is limited. The course costs $325 (plus an additional $135 if opting for academic credit), and participants are expected to provide their own beekeeping supplies, including hive tool and bee suit.

For more information, call Bromenshenk at 406-541-3160, email beeresearch@aol.com, or go online to http://www.umt.edu/bee.

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BBF/cbs

Western Montana

070312bees

Contact: Jerry Bromenshenk, UM biology research professor and co-owner of Bee Alert Technology Inc., 406-541-3160, beeresearch@aol.com.
MISSOULA –

The Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at The University of Montana and the Governor-appointed Tourism Advisory Council recently won the J. Desmond Slattery Professional Marketing Award at the annual international conference of the Travel and Tourism Research Association.

The award recognizes collaboration between the TAC and UM’s tourism institute in creating a user-friendly and publically available interactive website.

The Travel and Tourism Research Association, the premier international organization for blending research findings with practice in the tourism field, gave the award on June 19 in Virginia Beach, Va.

"It is an honor to win this award and to be recognized internationally as leaders in bridging the gap between tourism research and the tourism industry," said Norma Nickerson, ITRR director. “The Tourism Advisory Council’s Research Committee was instrumental in making this interactive website happen. The collaboration between industry needs and University research has been an exciting path to travel.”

The “Customize Your Report” webpage allows users to manipulate data to answer their specific questions about nonresident visitors to Montana.

“The ‘Nonresident Report Builder’ and ‘Travel Trends’ tool, particularly with its readily accessible and configurable format, has helped inform and guide our strategic planning process and is used to help measure the effectiveness of our efforts,” said Katy Peterson, consumer marketing manager at the Montana Office of Tourism.

“The report builder gives even the smallest business an in-house research department,” said Rhonda Fitzgerald, owner of the Garden Wall Inn in Whitefish and chair of the Tourism Advisory Council. "We have used this feature to generate reports for purposes ranging from urban planning, to resource conservation, to marketing.”

“While we have long relied on research material from ITRR to develop our business plans and marketing plans, the new ‘Report Builder’ feature on the ITRR website has made it easier for me to develop feasibility studies for new hotels,” said Bill McGladdery, director of hotel operations for Town Pump and chair of the Tourism Advisory Council’s research committee.

The Montana tourism research data can be accessed online at http://www.tourismresearchmt.org/.

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Contact: Norma Nickerson, director, UM Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, 406-243-2328, norma.nickerson@umontana.edu.