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Montana Kaimin, April 23, 2009

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MONTANA KAIMIN

Thursday, April 23, 2009

www.montanakaimin.com

Volume CXI, Issue 93

ASUM executive team candidates debate fees, senator responsibilities

VISTA leader hails Obama for increasing youth service

Allison Maier
MONTANA KAIMIN

Kimball Bennion
MONTANA KAIMIN



Bess Brownlee/Montana Kaimin

ASUM candidates Jake Armstrong, Daniel Zolnikov, and Tara Haupt look on as fellow candidates Matt Fennell and Emily May state their platforms and views during the ASUM executive debate on Wednesday afternoon in the UC Commons. The ASUM elections will be held from midnight on April 29 to 8 p.m. April 30.

Both teams running for the combination of ASUM president and vice president said they would attempt to get students more involved on campus, though their stances differed on proposed student fees and ASUM senators' office hours.

Candidates Matt Fennell and Emily May faced off against Daniel Zolnikov and Tara Haupt in the UC Commons in a debate Wednesday afternoon in front of an audience composed mainly of students studying and eating lunch. Fennell and Zolnikov are the candidates running for president. Business manager candidate Jake Armstrong was also there, though his challenger, Mike Campbell, didn't attend.

The ASUM election will be held from 12 a.m. on April 29 until 8 p.m. April 30. Students can vote on their CyberBear accounts.

Fennell and May said they would make ASUM more accessible to students than it's been in the past by asking ASUM senators to interact with student groups in addition to developing new agencies and expanding programs like recycling.

"We really have a passion for doing this and being there as much as we can," May said.

Zolnikov and Haupt emphasized the personal experience they would bring to their jobs, including having studied abroad, paid for college and participated

in various activities. They said that one of their main goals was to help increase the student retention rate, which is around 70 percent for freshman.

"We either have to retain students or see tuition and fees go up," Zolnikov said.

All the candidates discussed the need to increase students' connection to ASUM so they realize what is available to them and utilize those resources.

"How does an agency help you as students if you don't even

know you have it?" Zolnikov said.

May said because ASUM is an independent organization, the senators could decide to pursue anything students want or need. Fennell said ASUM's role is to advocate for the various interests of the student body.

"That can go as far as students want or need it to go," he said.

Fennell and May have proposed that ASUM senators take on more office hours so they have more opportunities to in-

teract with the students they are serving. Currently, in addition to weekly ASUM senate meetings held on Wednesday nights, senators are required to spend one hour a week in the ASUM office in the UC to assist anyone who comes in. Fennell said he thinks this could be increased to up to 10 hours a week. He said this is not too much to ask of someone elected to a position in which he or she represent students.

Haupt said that she doesn't

See DEBATE, page 8

Youth service and volunteering have become signature clarion calls of the Obama administration, and campus community service networks are seeing a significant jump in student response because of them.

Obama signed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act into law Tuesday, which tripled federal funding to AmeriCorps, one of the leading national service organizations. Many University of Montana students work with AmeriCorps through the Montana Campus Compact program, which connects students to Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA, a branch of AmeriCorps.

VISTA deals with issues of poverty, and Kay Quist, a VISTA leader on campus, said interest in the program, from both students and nonprofits looking for VISTA volunteers, has gone up dramatically.

"The numbers are just outrageous right now," Quist said.

In previous years, the number of nonprofits applying to VISTA to set up volunteer sites for students was around 13 or so per year, Quist said. But this year, that number went up to around 40. The number of VISTA applicants also went up.

"Thousands of people are applying," Quist said. "Our applicants have at least tripled."

The number of applicants isn't the only change. Quist said the type of applicant has changed, too. Traditionally, VISTA applicants are recent college graduates, but Quist has seen more non-traditional applicants, especially people who have recently lost their jobs.

This change may also have to do with the Serve America Act, which gives a \$1,000 education award to Americans age 55 and older who serve at least 350 hours. Recipients of the award can choose to transfer the award to a child or grandchild.

Quist said there is a direct link between the rise in volunteering and the efforts of the Obama administration, which she said were a big help in raising national awareness of public service.

When the president gets service out there on the national level, Quist said, people respond.

"It's undeniably due to this administration," she said.

VISTA requires applicants to volunteer for one year at a project site, which ranges from branches of the United Way to community organizations devoted to training low-income populations for green-collar jobs. Volunteers receive a stipend of \$833

See SERVICE, page 8

Conference addresses stereotypes and terrorism in Central, Southwest Asia

Carmen George
MONTANA KAIMIN

To get rid of a swamp, you've got to go after the bacteria.

Battling terrorism is like trying to get rid of a swamp, said Mehrdad Kia, University of Montana associate provost for International Programs and director of the Central and Southwest Asia Program. Bombing won't destroy it; you have to "dry it out" by eliminating the bacteria spawning the swamp's growth, Kia said.

Understanding the source of the problem is key to finding a real solution, he added.

The 7th annual Central & Southwest Asia Conference, titled "Beyond the Headlines: Peace and Conflict in Central and Southwest

Asia," began Wednesday night. The conference brings local and international scholars to UM to promote a greater understanding of topics ranging from terrorism in Afghanistan, Islamist movements in the Arab world, the conflict between Georgia and Russia, and terrorism in Israel and Palestine.

The free presentations continue through Friday night in the University Center.

Wednesday's keynote speaker, a female scholar from Afghanistan, addressed the public sphere of Afghanistan in terms of an emerging free press and Islam.

Nushin Arbabzadah, a visiting scholar from the University of California at Los Angeles who has worked as an editor for the BBC's Afghanistan Service, said that while an emerg-

ing free press has been successful and helped women's rights and freedom of speech, there are still a lot of problems. She cited three prominent women television presenters in her country who have been killed but whose deaths the government has not investigated.

"Progress has been made and they really need support," Arbabzadah said.

Kia said Arbabzadah brought a "new perspective that is usually ignored in the U.S. media," adding that much of the media's focus tends to be on violence in the region rather than political and cultural struggles.

There are many women scholars from that part of the world who "aren't taking this with their heads down; they are fighting back," he

See ASIA, page 10

TODAY ON CAMPUS

• Kim Williams 5K run
Open to students and staff
\$15 registration fee

INSIDE THE KAIMIN

Hunting cost decreases
page 4
Cheaper licenses for
non-resident students

Droppin' the 'Baum
page 2
...on tolerance

FORECAST

High 49F
Low 31F

Editorial

Park's cell phone plan raises safety questions for backcountry hikers

There are times when the government acts in the interest of its citizens, and there are times when its actions are an insulting parent-like slap on the wrist.

The wireless communications plan approved for Yellowstone National Park is a prime example of the government acting like a parent, reprimanding us for impolite behavior.

The plan prohibits wireless Internet in historic buildings and limits cell phone coverage throughout the park. It calls for the relocation of three communication towers, including one near Old Faithful, to less-obtrusive sites.

It's like being in middle school, when your parents wouldn't let you browse certain Web sites or talk to your best friend on the phone past 8 p.m. But now, you can't even use your cell phone or the Internet (in your own hotel room) in many places in the park.

Wireless Internet won't be available in the Lake Hotel, Old Faithful Inn, Roosevelt Lodge, Old Faithful Lodge, Lake Lodge and Mammoth Hotel, but will still be available in other stores and hotels.

Cell phone towers are prohibited in the backcountry, campgrounds and along park roads, which means cell phone service won't be available in a large portion of the park, either. However, service will remain available in developed areas and may become available in the Lake Village area.

The plan also calls for the park management and posted signs to encourage polite use of cell phones and wireless devices. But posting polite reminders is as far as the plan should have gone.

According to Tim Stevens, program manager of the National Parks Conservation Association, the plan is precedent-setting because it is one of the first wireless communications plans for a national park, and it covers the largest amount of federal public land so far.

I understand the plan is meant to protect the natural experience and serenity that people seek while in national parks, but Yellowstone failed to consider the safety of its visitors in this new communications plan.

While much cell phone use can be considered disrespectful, not all cell phones are used merely for chitchat. Many people, including hikers and backcountry enthusiasts, carry cell phones with them in case something goes wrong.

Accidents can and will happen and restricting cell phone access in such a large swatch of public land is going to cause more harm than good.

Just last summer, two women were rescued from Alaska's Denali National Park after they'd gone missing for five days. They were saved because one of the women had a cell phone, and she was able to get cell phone service and call her mother, providing a rough idea of their location on the fifth day.

Encouraging polite cell phone use is one thing. Making a conscious effort to restrict access to a practical amenity is another. Americans are deeply dependent on being connected in this wireless, technological age, and prohibiting use of their toys, remote workplaces and emergency devices is just going to make them upset.

I commend Yellowstone for its attempt to protect the image of undisturbed nature, and I wouldn't even mind seeing a few more camouflage cell phone towers pop up (yes, camo towers are another component of the plan). But I will never be comfortable with the idea that the federal government seized on an opportunity to deny access to an amenity with the potential to save lives.

Virginia J. Cleaveland, news editor
virginia.cleaveland@umontana.edu

DROPPIN' THE 'BAUM

...on tolerance

By Alex Tenenbaum



When I was living in the dorms, I made good friends with a Native American student who was easily twice my height and triple my weight. He had tattoos on his legs and spoke so little you'd think it was a tough-guy act. But he turned out to be incredibly gentle and brilliant. I liked him immediately.

We got pretty close, and one night, he went out on a limb and told me he was gay. It was a surprise, for sure, but I was honest when I said it didn't change how I thought or felt about him. He knew I was a Christian, and even though the label tends to spell self-righteous judgment, he took the risk.

The revelation gave us a lot to talk about. Well, mostly he talked, and I listened for a change. He grew up going to church and ended up facing a lot of disapproval.

At some point, he was asked to leave. His mother said she'd love him no matter what, and she decided to leave the church and stand with her son. It meant a lot that his mom supported him, but he still felt a lot of rejection.

It was about as heavy a conversation you can have, and at some point, I just wanted to start singing the gay Broadway number from "Blazing Saddles" to lighten things up. But I thought of about a million things easier than being a gay Native American in Montana, so I kept it together and did my best to really listen and understand everything he had to say.

He said he didn't like being gay. He asked God over and over to make him attracted to women instead of men, but he got fed up with unanswered prayers. He wondered whether God had made him this way and, if that were the case, why God would lead a person to break His own commandments.

When he was done pouring his heart out, he looked at me in anguish and asked, "Do you think being gay is really a sin?"

"Oh God, please don't ask me that question," I

thought. Ask me if God loves you – that one's easy – or if I love you like a brother no matter what.

He couldn't have made me squirm more had he picked me up by the collar and plastered me to the wall. I desperately wanted to do the politically correct "tolerance" thing and dance around the question, but I didn't want a friendship founded on a lie.

"Well," I said, "I don't want to gloss over this, and I don't want to lie to you about what I believe."

I told him I thought the Bible was pretty clear on gay sex, just like it's pretty clear on giving to the poor and stealing and loving God and sleeping around. There's nothing in the Bible that says being attracted to men is sinful, I said, "but ultimately, you get to decide what to do with that attraction."

He looked pretty hurt.

"You're OK, man," I said. I told him what a screw-up I was, how many times I'd chosen to lie and cheat, and how I'd messed up pretty bad sexually. There was no way I was going to hold his brokenness against him.

Since all sin is the same in God's eyes, I told him, there's no such thing as worse or better people – we're all a ridiculous mess. Some folks recognize their need for help and healing, and some are just arrogant.

We talked a lot more that night, and we left it with a good old-fashioned man-hug. It was kind of awkward because I had to stand on my tiptoes and he had to bend down low, and I ended up feeling pretty girly.

In the end, he still thought God created him gay and felt that homosexuality wasn't a sin. Even though we disagree, I was really glad he came out to me, and I am deeply grateful to have him as a friend.

I don't think we would have gotten so close had I rolled over on him and lied about my convictions. If that's what tolerance and political correctness means, I want no part in it. I would much rather love with honesty.

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Correction:

The Wednesday, April 22, story titled "MontPIRG fee will be on April 29 ballot" was written by Kaimin reporter Josh Potter.

The Kaimin invites letters to the editor and guest columns.

Letters should be 300 words or fewer, and columns should be about 700 words. Please

e-mail both to opinion@montanakaimin.com, or drop them off in Don Anderson Hall 208. Make sure to include a phone number.

MONTANA KAIMIN

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BUSINESS OFFICE PHONE 406-243-6541

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Guest Column

Banning assault weapons like banning cars

For Lauren Russell,

Of course, growing up with the blessings of liberty, you are "hard-pressed to see how the rights of American citizens should include owning firearms with the verb 'assault' in the name."

That's why the anti-gun lobby invented the term. Perhaps I can help you see.

As a freshman, I met a Chinese student from Malaysia. He once pointed out a pretty Malaysian girl, and told me he could not talk to her, and if she sat near us in the food service, he would have to move.

If he dared even catch her eye, Malaysian men would beat him up. Furthermore, they would send word back to Malaysia and men

would beat up his whole family and take or destroy everything they had. If the police didn't do the beating, they would look the other way. I asked him, "Why?" He said, "Because I'm Chinese."

Another day, I invited him to come with me to the shooting range. He declined.

He said that, in his country, "If you happen to find one bullet, maybe while digging in your garden, your best action would be to throw it as far as you can and hope no one saw you."

When I asked what would happen if they did, he said, "You would just disappear."

It is no coincidence that societies with extreme inequality and brutal tyranny also have extreme gun control. In the mid 1700s, British subjects living in America

gradually lost their legal rights and protections through a series of legislations deemed reasonable by the king and parliament, until their plight was similar to my Chinese friend in Malaysia.

The British answer to colonial protests was to attempt to disarm the populace. That's when the war started. The muskets that the British were marching to confiscate in Lexington and Concord were the "assault" weapons of their day.

As you wrote in your column, the so-called "assault weapons ban" was an "attempt to initiate tighter regulations" and you have obviously heard the anti-gun lobby logic that since some criminals use certain types of weapons, they should be more tightly regulated.

However, this is just the same tactic used by parliament and King

George III.

When a criminal kills school-children by driving a car through a playground, no one demands a ban on cars, or even ones with semi-automatic transmissions.

I agree that we should take action to stop these tragic shootings, but disarming the good guys isn't the answer. People killed each other for thousands of years before gunpowder was invented.

The truth is that in countries such as Switzerland, where every adult is in the militia, and required to keep a loaded, operational, fully-automatic rifle at hand, this type of crime doesn't exist.

Think about it. How many shootings would there be if people shot back?

The Second Amendment has nothing to do with hunting, target

shooting or crime.

It was penned by people who had seen firsthand how rights and liberties can be taken away, one "tighter regulation" at a time, people who had been able to fight back against the greatest army in the world because they were armed.

They wrote it so that if the new government they were creating were to slide into tyranny, they would not be helpless.

That's why it is not only the right, but the duty for every adult American citizen in good standing to be as well armed as the military we must be prepared to oppose.

Think of it as a tool of last resort, like a fire extinguisher. You hope to never need it, but if you do...

Daniel Kostelnik
master's candidate, geography

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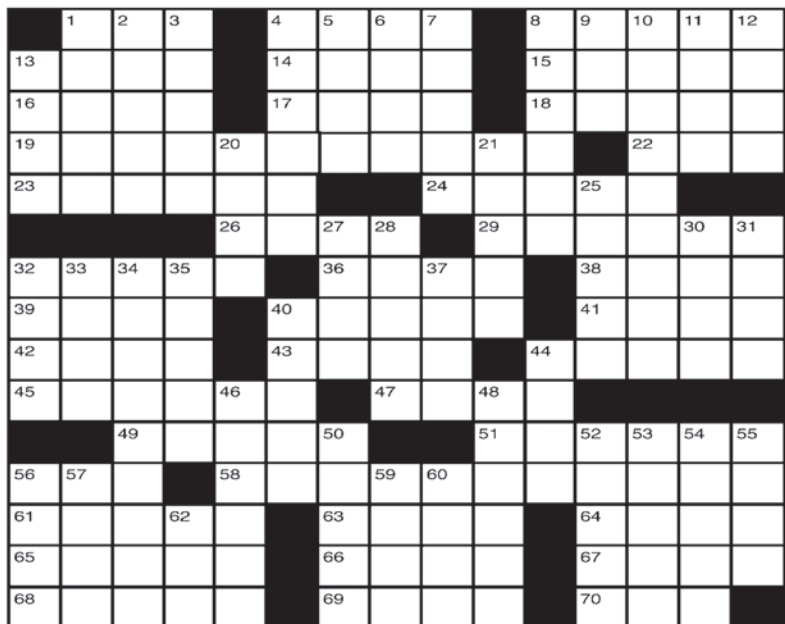
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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Clean the floor
 - 4 Pesky insect
 - 8 Circle the earth
 - 13 Drink too much
 - 14 Wander
 - 15 Piece of religious art
 - 16 One of HOMES
 - 17 Ripening agent
 - 18 Metal bar
 - 19 City near Los Angeles
 - 22 ___ flash; instantly
 - 23 Arm covering
 - 24 Devoured
 - 26 Caesar's bad day
 - 29 Word with gallery or butter
 - 32 Sat for artist
 - 36 Wicked
 - 38 Name for an Italian boy
 - 39 Poker term
 - 40 Bicyclist
 - 41 Within: pref.
 - 42 Item in a fruit bowl
 - 43 Pub orders
 - 44 Jargon
 - 45 Bodies of soldiers
 - 47 Headliner
 - 49 Brass or zinc
 - 51 Seems pleased
 - 56 "___ on Melancholy"
 - 58 Fireplace floor piece
 - 61 Split grammatically
 - 63 Bull: Sp.
 - 64 This: Sp.
 - 65 Leader's title: var.
 - 66 Actor Robert
 - 67 Encounter
 - 68 Surrenders
 - 69 Facial center
 - 70 Div. of a former nation



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4/23/09

- DOWN**
- 1 Ethical
 - 2 Think
 - 3 Golfer Calvin
 - 4 Put a border around
 - 5 Symbol for a corporation

- 6 Tied
- 7 Eaglet's home
- 8 Drug
- 9 Double-Tin forerunner
- 10 Outset
- 11 "Blame ___ Rio"; 1984 movie
- 12 "So long!"
- 13 Hardy heroine
- 20 Gaga
- 21 Foolish prank
- 25 Zealous
- 27 See 36 Across
- 28 ___ with; supports
- 30 Take apart
- 31 Sound a horn
- 32 Male parent
- 33 Rara avis
- 34 Stuttered
- 35 Weird
- 37 In case
- 40 Tabulae ___
- 44 Extremities
- 46 Old anesthetics
- 48 Where Michael should row the boat

Solutions



- 50 Mass language—now and forever
- 52 Thingamajigs
- 53 Comes in last
- 54 Penetrate
- 55 Part of a bike
- 56 Mideast gp.
- 57 Knight's missus
- 59 Chocolate-covered caramel candy
- 60 Peruvian three
- 62 Look at

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Gettin' down and dirty



Bess Brownlee/Montana Kaimin

Freshmen Caitlin Bambenek and Adair Brown sift through newly spread compost in the student garden by the University Center on Wednesday afternoon. Students for Real Food hosted the Earth Day garden party, and all students were encouraged to stop by the northeast corner of the UC and get their hands dirty while listening to live music and enjoying snacks.

Five bills allow more hunting opportunities

Will Melton

MONTANA KAIMIN

Some University of Montana hunters will soon find it's cheaper to bag an elk or deer than it used to be.

Senate Bill 185, sponsored by Sen. Joe Balyeat, R-Bozeman, will save hundreds of dollars for non-resident full-time students at Montana's state universities who want to hunt deer and elk.

Last year, it cost these students \$643 to buy a combination license, which allows hunters to hunt deer, elk and upland game birds and includes a fishing license. SB185, however, will reduce the cost to \$70 for the same rights.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks didn't officially endorse the bill, but they're happy it exists as a "good way to get kids in the field," according to Ron Aasheim of FWP.

He said the bill could cost FWP some money, but revenue could also increase.

Not many college students could afford the previous price, he said, adding that he expects there could be a surge in new licenses issued.

The fiscal note attached to the bill projects a rise of as much as \$42,000 in revenues as a result of the changes.

In order to qualify for the lower

prices, students must be enrolled with 12 or more credits. The bill also applies to any student with a diploma from a Montana high school who is currently a full-time student at an out-of-state college, as long as a parent remains a Montana resident.

william.melton@umontana.edu

Some other hunting and fishing bills signed into law this year include:

- **HB74**, which allows the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission to include mountain lion, bear and wolf among species that can have designated archery-only seasons. Previously, the species list included only deer, antelope, elk, moose, sheep and goat.

- **HB317**, which guarantees that a member of the Armed Forces who has to forfeit a special hunting license as a result of overseas deployment receives the same license, without additional fees, the year he or she returns.

- **HB366**, which allows Montana's fishermen to fish in bordering states within 10 miles of the border on any body of water that exists in Montana if the bordering state reciprocates that agreement.

- **HB383**, which gives free big game licenses to youths younger than 18 who have life-threatening illnesses. This expands the old law, which gave licenses only to youths younger than 17 with terminal illnesses.



The University Of Montana Spirit Squad TRYOUTS! April 24-26

Dance Team

Friday, April 24th

Informational Meeting & Clinic:
4:30pm-7:00pm
Adams Center
(\$20.00 Application Fee)

Saturday, April 25th

Review: 10:00am-12:00pm
Tryouts: 1:00-4:00
Adams Center

Cheer Squad

Saturday, April 25th

Informational Meeting & Clinic:
9:00am-4:00pm
Adams Center
(\$20.00 Application Fee)

Sunday, April 26th

Clinic: 10:00am-12:00pm
Tryouts: 1:00pm
Adams Center

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Sudoku By The Mepham Group

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

Level: **1** 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle

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

Women's tennis team hopes to ride hot streak into Big Sky Championships in California this weekend

Tyson Alger
MONTANA KAIMIN

As the winds whipped through Missoula Wednesday afternoon, The University of Montana women's tennis team practiced through the gusts in preparation for this weekend's Big Sky Conference Championship, held in Gold River, Calif. While the wind didn't provide the most opportune environment for the team to practice on the last day before traveling to the tournament, head coach Steve Ascher was optimistic about the practice.

"You adjust," he said. "It could be windy down there. Northern California is typically windy."

The wind isn't the only factor that could come into play at the BSC tournament. California has been experiencing high temperatures over the past week, with averages in the upper 90s.

"It's been a heat wave down there," Ascher said. But for the Griz, who are coming off a huge 4-3 conference win over Weber State to propel themselves to the sixth and final seed of the tournament, cooling off isn't in the plans.

"It's great going in with a bit of a win streak," Ascher said. "It's important from the perspective of confidence-building. Coming in with a couple wins under your belt, it gives you a chance to come in and battle a little harder and give it a little more when you're feeling confident."

The women will be matched up against third seed Northern Arizona. The Lumberjacks handled Montana thoroughly earlier this season, posting a 6-1 victory



Sophomore Cara Lehman returns a volley at the Robert O. Lindsay Tennis Center on Wednesday. The team will compete in the Big Sky Conference Championships in Gold River, Calif., this weekend. Taka Osuga/Montana Kaimin

over the Griz. Ascher noted that, although the match score seemed lopsided, there were plenty of close matches.

Senior Liz Walker will enter the match against NAU on a high note after being named the Big Sky's player of the week for the third time this season. Walker is coming

off a personal undefeated weekend and brings consistency to the women's lineup.

"It's been a special year for her," Ascher said. "Because of how consistent she's been playing, I just expect it to continue this weekend. It would be nice for her to go out on a high note."

Waiting for the winner of this quarterfinals match is top-seeded Sacramento State. The Hornets received a bye in the first round.

"They've really separated themselves from the conference this year," Ascher said. "They're within the top 50 in the nation, and anytime you go up against that as

a player, you cherish it."

As for the weather, temperatures in Gold River are expected to cool off for the weekend. But whatever they are, the Griz are ready.

"Whatever it's going to give us, we're ready for it," Ascher said. tyson.alger@umontana.edu

Women's golf fourth in Big Sky Championship

Colter Nuanez
MONTANA KAIMIN

Northern Arizona's golf team took advantage of playing close to home, capturing the 2009 Big Sky Conference Championship at the Ocotillo Golf Resort in Chandler, Ariz., Wednesday. It was the Lumberjacks' record sixth conference championship after finishing second each of the last three seasons. The University of Montana women finished fourth.

Never did the NAU women relinquish the lead. Northern shot a three-round score of 914 (298, 309, 307) to finish six strokes ahead of runner-up Sacramento State (308, 312, 300), 10 ahead of third-place Weber State (315, 305, 304) and 20 ahead of Montana (312, 317, 305).

The Grizzlies had a 12-stroke advantage over fifth-place and defending champion Portland State (312, 319, 315).

Montana saved its best round as a team for Wednesday's finale,

but it wasn't enough for UM to nab a trophy. All four Montana players shot in the 70s to finish at plus-17 (305) on the day.

UM sophomore Kacey Vala shot a final-round 74, the team's best round of the tournament. Sophomore Carissa Simmons and freshman Ashli Helstrom both shot a four-over-par 76 Wednesday, while sophomore Rose Stepanek came in at 79, a 16-shot improvement from her opening-round 95.

Northern Colorado's Ali Nelson shot the only under-par round of the tournament Wednesday, posting a one-under 71 to finish at plus-6 (77, 74, 71) for the week. Nelson defeated Weber State's Emily Copier (79, 73, 73) and Northern Arizona's Alexa Kim (72, 76, 77) by three strokes after trailing following Tuesday's round.

Simmons finished in fifth at plus-11, her second consecutive top-five finish. She finished third in 2008.

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New Yankee Stadium seats pricey

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — At the new Yankee Stadium, the best seats in the house have turned out to be the emptiest.

The most expensive spots in America's costliest ballpark have become an embarrassment packing a financial sting to the proud New York Yankees, as the Legends Suite section in the infield has been filled only once in the six games since the \$1.5 billion stadium opened last week.

On most days, the seats that cost \$500-\$2,500 as part of season tickets and go up to \$2,625 for individual games haven't been close to full. And as TV cameras pick up the patchy attendance with every pitch, it serves as a little tweak to the nation's richest baseball franchise.

"We're done talking about seats," Yankees president Randy Levine said Wednesday. "We're not talking about seats."

But fans sure notice.

"It's been pretty phenomenal," said Aaron Feldstein, a native Californian who lived in Brooklyn for a couple of years and now

resides in Baltimore. He was part of the far-from-sellout crowd at the Yankees' 9-7 victory in 14 innings Wednesday over the Oakland Athletics on a showery, cold afternoon. The Legend Suite section was about 80 percent empty, and the upper decks — which have been mostly full — were a quarter empty.

"I remember watching and you couldn't find an empty seat at Yankee Stadium. And now right behind home plate there's 15 to 20," said the 29-year-old Feldstein, who scored a free ticket from a friend behind home plate — an area that costs \$325 as part of season tickets.

Another snapshot of the problem:

A count by The Associated Press totaled 1,895 seats in the Legends Suite, of which 146 were in the front row from dugout to dugout, costing \$2,500 as season tickets and \$2,625 individually.

— On Tuesday night, only 64 of the 146 seats at the top price level were occupied in the bottom of the second inning. The outermost Legends Suite sections, which each contain 90 seats, were

entirely empty until two fans finally emerged to sit in them during the late innings.

— On Wednesday, in the third inning, just 37 of the highest-priced, front-row seats were occupied, although it was impossible to know if some fans had taken shelter in stadium restaurants.

Yet another sign of how the best seats have been overpriced is their resale level.

Legends Suite seats in section 27B, row 2, down the left-field line that originally sold for \$500 were available for \$225 early Wednesday on the online ticket broker StubHub.com. Tickets in section 23, row 7, behind the visitors' dugout could be had for \$263, down from their \$850 original price.

"Yeah, we understand it's not full. We actually understand why it's not," left fielder Johnny Damon said. "It's tough for, you know, business owners to justify those seats. It's either have those seats or lay off people from work, and I think that during this tough time, people are going to want to put it back into their companies and put it back into people instead of spending that type of money for seats."

ASUM agrees to opt-out option for MontPIRG fee description

Josh Potter

MONTANA KAIMIN

With the semester wrapping up and any discussion on ballot initiatives for next week's student vote on CyberBear already completed, ASUM discussed one more referendum at its meeting Wednesday night.

The Montana Public Interest Research Group fee, which was voted down by ASUM but secured a spot on the ballot through a petition process, was brought before the senate a second time. ASUM voted unanimously to accept the language of the ballot after MontPIRG campus coordinator Sheena Rice and ASUM senators amended the language to clarify that it was an opt-out fee, not a refundable fee.

The \$5 student fee would help MontPIRG hire new and additional staff.

Whether or not the fee would be opt-in or opt-out was a concern of both MontPIRG and ASUM when they discussed the language of the ballot.

"If it's opt-in, the amount of money you'd get would be slim," said Business Manager Alex Gosline, adding that few people would actually opt in to a fee.

Ultimately, ASUM agreed on the opt-out description because it was the language students agreed on when they signed the petition.

"When we were doing the petition drive, that was the fee we were talking about," Rice said. "We still feel it's important to go forward with the opt-out language."

"(The referendum) basically mirrors the language that's on their petition," said ASUM President Trevor Hunter.

Hunter added that the bill ASUM discussed on Wednesday

was not an endorsement of the fee, it was an attempt by ASUM to make sure that it is clearly explained on the ballot.

"ASUM made its opinions and stance known two weeks ago when the fee failed decisively 17-3," Hunter said. "The MontPIRG fee issue is out of ASUM's hands at this point and literally up to the student body and the Regents."

Because of that, Rice said MontPIRG will do everything it can to garner support for the fee.

"We're going to be doing a lot of outreach to the students," Rice said. "We're just going to be out there with clipboards."

Rice added that Forward Montana, another Montana nonprofit, supports the MontPIRG fee and will focus its "progressive happy hour" around the fee on Monday.

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ASUM referendums

Vote on CyberBear April 29-30

Renewable Energy Loan Fund (RELFF)

A Renewable Energy Loan Fund creates funding for student-led projects that reduce the environmental impact of the campus and save money. These projects exist in areas of energy efficiency, water conservation and waste reduction. The financial savings these projects produce would be returned to the fund, growing over time, and ensuring that sustainability and economic success go hand in hand. A \$4 per student, per semester fee could create over \$80,000 in the first year. Students could use these funds for projects that make the campus cleaner and greener and represent smart investments. The fee would be opt-out to give students the option not to pay. A student-led committee will be responsible for release of the funds so students keep control.

Yes, I approve the passage of an optional \$4 per student per semester fee to create the Revolving Energy Loan Fund (RELFF).

No, I do not approve of the passage of an optional \$4 per student per semester fee to create the Revolving Energy Loan Fund (RELFF).

Montana Kaimin

The Montana Kaimin is proposing a \$2.00 increase to the Montana Kaimin fee. The Montana Kaimin is the only student run newspaper for the University of Montana and employs almost 50 students to prepare and design the weekly publication. This fee would be used to modernize the technology of the Montana Kaimin office, maintain necessary financial reserves, meet mandatory increases in the minimum wage, and continue to provide special advertising rates to student groups.

Yes, I support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee from \$4 to \$6 per semester.

No, I do not support increasing the Montana Kaimin fee from \$4 to \$6 per semester.

ASUM Transportation Fee

The Transportation Fee supports the ASUM Office of Transportation. A fee increase is needed to increase service to the College of Technology and South campus, which has seen a 112% ridership increase, to provide a bus garage through a renovation of a current building on campus, to replace the Bio Bus, which is past its life expectancy, to meet federal safety standards and to expand the semester bike program.

A \$3.50 per semester increase to the

Transportation Fee would increase the current Park'n Ride services to the College of Technology and to South campus. After a fall 2008 safety review, it was determined that the ASUM Transportation system is in need of meeting a number of requirements for the system to qualify for federal transportation funds. Such needs include: a bus garage, more student lead drivers, increased testing and training, and improved communication system. The additional fee will go to meeting the safety guidelines and would renovate a current University building to be able to house the new buses recently purchased, which will extend the life expectancy of all the current and future equipment. The bio bus was purchased in 2000 and has a life expectancy of 7 years. With the additional fee, this bus will be replaced during the 2010-2011 academic year. Finally, the semester bike program started in fall 2008 was so successful that all bikes were checked out within 4 days of the spring 2009 semester. An additional fee would allow the ASUM OT to increase this program to more adequately meet the demonstrated demand.

Yes, I approve of a \$3.50 per semester increase to the Transportation Fee to meet the above requests.

No, I do not approve of a \$3.50 per semester increase to the Transportation Fee.

MontPIRG

MontPIRG (Montana Student Public Interest Research Group) is a statewide, student directed, non-profit, non-partisan organization. MontPIRG gives students a vital out of the classroom learning experience to act on the problems they see in the world, by allowing students to pool their resources with students across the state and country to make our voices stronger and to hire a staff of professionals to work with students on issues that concern us as citizens. A \$5 per student, per semester 'opt-out' fee would allow students to pool their resources together and hire professional staff to work with students on issues that concern us as citizens.

Yes, I support the establishment of a \$5 per semester, per student 'opt-out' fee for MontPIRG.

No, I do not support the establishment of a \$5 per semester, per student 'opt-out' fee for MontPIRG.

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Giving the Earth the shirt off her back



Taka Osuga/Montana Kaimin

Ella Torti, a junior in biology, looks at a T-shirt made during an Earth Day event on the Oval on Wednesday afternoon. Sophomore Jeff Lasher called the secondhand shirt-decorating event a very creative activity used to raise awareness of sustainability.

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SERVICE

Continued from page 1

per month for living expenses, but cannot hold another job or go to school during their period of service. At the end of the year, volunteers receive an education award of \$5,350, an amount the Serve America Act recently raised from \$4,725.

Rohanna Erin, a recent graduate of Fordham University in New York, is an AmeriCorps team leader working her term in Montana.

Erin organized a project for Global Youth Service Day, which is this Saturday. Local youth and AmeriCorps volunteers will clean and prepare the grounds of the Moon-Randolph Homestead for its annual May Day celebration and start work on the Garden of Eaton, a new community garden on Eaton Street.

Erin said she estimates 50 to 75 volunteers will help out this year, and thanks to the efforts of the Obama administration, anticipates there may be more next year.

"We're definitely going to see an influx soon," Erin said, "but probably not until next year."

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DEBATE

Continued from page 1

agree with this plan because students are busy and don't necessarily have that much time to be in the office.

Fennell, May, Zolnikov and Haupt are all currently ASUM senators.

The candidates also discussed three student fees that will appear on the ASUM ballot. One is a \$3.50 increase for ASUM Transportation that would modify the fee to \$26. Two others are optional: a \$4 fee for a Revolving Energy Loan Fund that would be used for student sustainability projects and a \$5 fee to support the Montana Student Public Interest Research Group, a non-profit organization that advocates for various interests in courts, the legislature and other agencies. The ballot will also let students vote on increasing the Kaimin fee to \$6 from \$4, which wasn't debated.

Fennell said he supports the transportation, energy loan and MontPIRG fee. Zolnikov said he supports the transportation and energy loan fees as well, though he does not agree with the MontPIRG fee, an opinion that differs from that of his running mate, Haupt. He said he thinks MontPIRG essentially does things that ASUM is already doing.

While Fennell said fees are not a waste of money because of all the ways they can benefit students, Zolnikov was wary of increasing the amount students should have to pay.

"I think it's great to support all these ideas, but we need to keep the cost in mind," he said.

Armstrong said that, as the business manager, he wouldn't just give money to student groups without having discussions with them to find out what their plans are and what they've done in the past. He said he would explore cheaper alternatives when groups request money.

"The best part about me is that I can see both sides of a situation," he said.

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Suit would give Sioux money for Black Hills

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIERRE, S.D. — Members of eight Sioux tribes should be given their share of hundreds of millions of dollars awarded in old court cases for the improper taking of the Black Hills, according to a lawsuit filed in federal court in South Dakota.

Even though the Sioux tribes have refused the money and have continued to demand the return of the land in southwestern South Dakota, the courts cannot give back that land, the lawsuit says.

The only remedy available for the loss of the Black Hills is money, said Wanda L. Howey-Fox of Yankton, one of the lawyers who filed the class-action lawsuit.

Howey-Fox said tribal members are wrong if they believe taking the money amounts to selling the Black Hills.

"There is no selling to be done because the court determined it was an improper taking and all the court can give as far as a remedy is money," Howey-Fox said. "They can sit and hope and pine away that the government is going to give the Black Hills back, but that is never going to happen."

But Charlotte Black Elk, who has been active in traditional issues including the Black Hills, said she would never consider taking money for the Black Hills, which the Sioux hold sacred.

"To take the money would bless the theft," said Black Elk, who lives on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

"This is obviously a move by people who just want a check," Black Elk said of the lawsuit. "I believe some of them are not fully aware of the significance of the Black Hills and what taking money for it would mean."

The dispute is more than 130 years old.

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UM rodeo team hobbled heading to Glendive

Roman Stubbs
MONTANA KAIMIN

The hobbling University of Montana rodeo program is welcoming a grueling 570-mile trip to Glendive this weekend, hoping that heading eight hours due east can reverse its fortunes.

Two weeks is all it has taken. In that window, the men's team has taken three casualties in the pit. Two torn ACLs and a broken leg have reduced coach Kevin Nordahl's cowboy roster. Couple that with a women's barrel racing bronc that broke a leg last week, and the program is searching for a clean slate, if you will.

"The injury bug has kind of kicked us in the rear right now," said Nordahl, who is in his 13th year coaching the UM program.

An opportunity to climb in the Big Sky regional rankings presents itself Friday night in Glendive, where the program will compete in the Dawson College Rodeo. The Montana women are in second place behind Montana State, while the men rest in the sixth slot, after a dashing third-place finish at the Big Sky Rodeo in Helena last weekend.

At the forefront for the women is senior Amber Crowley, who has emerged as the state's top all-around cowgirl through the midway point of the spring campaign. Crowley is the overall points leader in breakaway roping, second place in goat tying and fourth in barrel racing – placement that Nordahl says has her in position to qualify in all three events for June's National College Rodeo Finals, which is often dubbed the Rose Bowl of the college rodeo circuit.

"I had a great fall for all three events," said Crowley, who then added that she isn't pressing to hit qualifications in all three events. "I would like to qualify in all three of them ... I'm trying to do my best, but sometimes things just don't fall into place. We'll see. We still have two rodeos left."

Montana also has two cowgirls with top-15 standings – Misty Rose Schindler in goat tying and Charlee Ray Fleharty in barrel racing. Montana State's Morgan David Knudson is the commanding leader in the ladder event – currently sitting with nearly a 100-point cushion heading into the final three weeks of the spring slate.

The men are limping their way into the final three weeks – even with the encouraging finish in the aforementioned Helena rodeo last weekend, where Connor Treat cemented a fifth-place finish in steer wrestling. Incoming freshman Wes Malin joined him by standing out in the event with a third-place finish in the second rodeo Saturday, catching



Taka Osuga/Montana Kaimin

Misty Schindler, one of the top 15 cowgirls in the Big Sky, practices goat tying in the Lolo Peak Arena on Wednesday afternoon. The women's rodeo team sits in second place in the Big Sky region.

Nordahl's eye. That promise was soured on Monday, when he received a progress report on Malin's knee.

"The one that has impressed me (Malin) just tore his ACL," Nordahl said. "He's finished for the year."

Unbitten by the injury bug but still flying under the radar this spring has been UM's Dustin Jenkins, the Missoula native who made splashes last June in Casper, Wyo., as the bull ride national champion. Jenkins has placed in just one of the three rodeos so far this spring, but when asked if he is feeling the heat from last year's expectations, he dismissed the idea in a modest tone.

"No. I just treat them all like it's another rodeo, like I haven't won anything," he said.

Jenkins also carved out a name for himself last summer on the pro-rodeo circuit in Montana, a young gun who upended veteran bull riders in big money rodeos such as Arlee and Augusta.

He currently sits fourth in the Big Sky's

bull ride standings, just 46 points behind Dawson Community College's Reid Lozier. And with only the three top-ranked regional finishers gaining a berth to Casper, the next three weekends will determine whether he will defend his title in June or not.

"I definitely need to do a lot better at these next two rodeos," said Jenkins, who is joined in the top 15 by Eddy Lon Brewer. "I think our team has a lot of potential. It seems to come together for some of us one weekend; some of us, it doesn't some weekends."

Both Jenkins and Crowley plan to hit the Montana highways this summer for the pro circuits – but that task is far from their minds, as they try to finish up their college careers both in the pit and in classroom.

"Education is our No. 1 priority," said Nordahl, who started his professional rodeo career in 1981. "That's basically what we emphasize."

If they're fortunate enough, they'll do proper time management, and they'll be able

to practice and compete at these college rodeos along with getting an education."

When Crowley ventured across the state from Poplar four years ago, the rodeo team gave her a multi-dimensional life, one that allowed her to meet "unique" kids and compete in 10 college rodeos a year. But that life was also intertwined with the responsibilities of earning a degree.

"It's extremely hard for me. It comes down to where finals come, and then your rodeo season starts. You're trying to finish everything and do well; trying to keep your grades up," she said. "It all adds up. It takes a major effort from kids."

Classes are over in May, and Crowley's collegiate rodeo career will come to a close in June, where she has dreams of bringing proper closure with a national championship in Wyoming.

"That's the ultimate goal," Crowley said. "That's what I am here for."

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Taka Osuga/Montana Kaimin



Taka Osuga/Montana Kaimin

Far Left
Sophomore Jay Gregory tries to take down the bull during steer wrestling practice. Six men and five women on the team are injured and head coach Kevin Nordahl said it has been a tough season.

Left
Senior Charlee Fleharty practices breakaway roping.

ASIA

Continued from page 1

said, adding that the conference is also about showcasing the "brilliance" of these scholars.

Thursday's presentations address the struggle against terrorism in Afghanistan and within Israeli and Palestinian territories, and Tajikistan's path to peace following civil war.

Brian Lofink, coordinator for the Central and Southwest Asia Program, said the conference is part of a conversation that will be "increasingly relevant, not only in our lives, but in our children's lives."

"I hope people take advantage of the opportunity to listen to experts in the region discuss an area of the world that is often misunderstood," Lofink said.

Kia said the Central and Southwest Asia Program has

gained international recognition as one of the best programs of its kind. The same interdisciplinary approach that gained the program its reputation will be reflected in the array of speakers in the conference, he added.

Samir Bitar, UM instructor of Arabic language and culture, and Khaled Huthaily, UM assistant professor of Arabic, will speak Friday afternoon for the portion of the conference called "The Role of Arabic as a Language of War and Peace."

The conference is an opportunity to become more informed by thinking critically about these topics and issues, Bitar said.

"I encourage everyone attending to think outside the box and imagine global harmony," he said. "That would be my hope and wish."

A complete schedule of the week's presentations can be found at www.umt.edu/cap/conference09.

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Bess Brownlee/Montana Kaimin

UCLA guest scholar Nushin Arbabzadah addresses issues of Islam, conflict, terrorism, peace and emerging journalism freedoms in Afghanistan during her lecture at the 7th Annual Central and Southwest Asia Conference on Wednesday evening in the UC Ballroom.

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Budget stalemate drags on

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA — A legislative budget stalemate over issues like children's health insurance and education continued Wednesday with no noticeable movement, as both sides blamed the other for failing to compromise.

Democrats want a measure that is pretty close to the full bipartisan budget that cleared the House, but said they are willing to give a little.

Republicans, however, are sticking close to the GOP-controlled Senate's cuts to the voter-approved expansion of children's health insurance and to state agencies, along with a shift of education funding increases to federal stimulus money.

Party leaders said committee chairmen are meeting informally in hopes of drafting a deal.

But the key committees charged with resolving those differences — along with mitigation of property tax value increases — met only briefly Wednesday. The legislature only has four days left constitutionally to finish its only required duty: adopting a state budget.

Senate President Bob Story, R-Park City, said Democrats are unwilling to compromise.

"We really don't know who's driving the process on the other side," he said. "We thought we were making some progress yesterday and today things backed up a little bit."

House Speaker Bob Bergren, D-Havre, said Republicans keep making demands without offering anything in return.

"Every time they come here they just want more from us," Bergren said.

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Billionaire accused of 'looting' Yellowstone Club

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSOULA — A federal bankruptcy judge on Wednesday delayed a civil trial on creditors' claims that the exclusive Yellowstone Club in Montana was looted by its former owner.

In the years before the resort he founded spiraled into bankruptcy, Tim Blixseth lived a jet-setting life of luxury, bankrolled largely by a \$375 million loan made to the club through Credit Suisse.

After transferring the bulk of that 2005 loan to his private accounts, Blixseth and his former wife, Edra,

bought airplanes, estates in France, Mexico and Scotland and a private island in the Caribbean.

But with the club now more than \$400 million in debt, its creditors say the loan should never have been diverted. The club, which has a private ski hill on 13,600 acres, counts former Vice President Dan Quayle and Microsoft's Bill Gates among its more than 300 members.

The creditors are seeking to have the loan declared illegal and for Blixseth to return the money. They also want Credit Suisse to return to the club \$146.4 million in principal and interest already paid.

"Enticed by the riches available from Credit Suisse, the Blixseths chose to breach their fiduciary duties (and) abandon the Yellowstone Club," creditors' attorney Thomas Beckett wrote in documents filed with the court.

Beckett described Tim Blixseth as "looting" the club prior to transferring control to Edra Blixseth as part of their divorce settlement last August. The pair built the club in the late 1990s on former U.S. Forest Service land near Yellowstone.

As the trial opened Wednesday, Blixseth's attorney asked for the case to be heard at a later date and

separated from the creditors' claims against Credit Suisse. Attorney Joseph Grant said hundreds of thousands of pages of documents in the case were made available Tuesday night, hobbling Blixseth's defense.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Ralph Kirscher said Blixseth would be given another week to prepare, but would not receive a separate trial.

The Yellowstone Club filed for bankruptcy protection in November. Members and creditors blame Blixseth and Credit Suisse, a Swiss investment bank that received \$7.4 million for arranging the loan.

In recent years, the Swiss invest-

ment bank packaged more than \$2 billion in loans to at least six luxury resorts now in financial trouble. Some of those deals — including the Yellowstone Club's — were marketed as a way for resort owners to extract massive and early "profit dividends" before the developments were completed.

After the real estate market collapse, the resorts were unable to keep selling property to cover the loans.

Blixseth's attorneys contend the money he took from the loans was deserved, and that the bankruptcy was spurred by economic forces outside his control.

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ART (ART) First Session											
	CRN	Crs	Sec	Cr	Course Title	Session	Dates	Days	Time	Location	Instructor
UG	50396	314A	01	3	Elementary School Art	1ST	5/26-6/26	MTWR	7:30a-9:20a	FA 102	Tilton
UG	51302	495	02	3	Drawing as Daily Record	1ST	5/26-6/26	MTWR	9:30a-11:20a	FA 401	Bonjorni
ART (ART) Special Session											
U	50938	395	80	3	Missoula's Historic Architecture	SPEC	6/15-6/30	MTWRF	8:30a-5:30p	FA 304	Chacon
ART (ART) Second Session											
UG	50276	315	30	3	Photography II	2ND	6/29-7/31	MTWR	9:30a-11:20a	FA 415	Krutek
DANCE (DAN) Special Session											
U	50402	327A	80	2	Dance in Elementary Education	SPEC	5/26-6/18	MTWR	12:30p-2:20p	PART 005	Antonioli
DRAMA (DRAM) Special and Full Sessions											
U	50646	306	60	1-3	Summer Theatre	FULL	5/26-7/31	Arrange		PART 195	Dean
U	50398	327A	80	2	Drama in Elementary Education	SPEC	5/26-6/05	MTWRF	9:30a-12:30p	MCG 125	Waldorf
MEDIA ARTS (MAR) First Session											
Online Offerings:											
U	51306	395	50	3	Introduction to Photoshop	1ST	5/26-6/26				Hughes
U	51307	395	51	3	Introduction to Web Design	1ST	5/26-6/26				Ghaddar
U	51308	395	52	3	Digital Photographic Imaging	1ST	5/26-6/26				Fromm
MEDIA ARTS (MAR) Special Session											
U	50799	395	80	3	Photoshop	SPEC	5/26-6/03	MTWR	9:00a-5:00p	MCG 126	Twigg
U	50800	395	81	3	After Effects	SPEC	6/18-6/26	MTRF	9:00a-5:00p	MCG 126	Twigg
U	50801	395	82	3	Stop Motion Animation	SPEC	7/23-7/31	MTRF	9:00a-5:00p	MCG 126	Shogren
U	51309	395	83	3	Illustrator	SPEC	6/08-6/16	MTRF	9:00a-5:00p	MCG 126	Twigg
U	51310	395	84	3	Introduction to Final Cut Pro	SPEC	7/06-7/17	MTRF	1:00a-5:00p	MCG 126	Shogren
UG	50856	495	81	3	Web Design	SPEC	7/09-7/22	MTWRF	1:00p-5:00p	MCG 126	Ghaddar
UG	50636	495	82	3	Making Movies: Just Do It	SPEC	7/20-7/26	UMTWRF	9:00a-4:30p	DHC 120	Murphy, O'Brien
MUSIC (MUS) First Session											
U	50458	335	01	3	Music Education in Elementary Schools I	1ST	5/26-6/26	MTWR	3:30p-5:20p	MUS 204	Belz
MUSIC (MUS) Special Sessions											
UG	50459	495	80	3	Studio Recording Techniques and Sound Engineering	SPEC	7/06-7/24	MTWRF	9:30a-12:30p	MUS 217	Nichols
MUSIC (MUS) Second Session											
Online Offerings:											
UG	51293	495	50	3	Music Notation Soft: Sibelius	2ND	6/29-7/31				Nichols

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Police investigate death of Freddie Mac official

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The chief financial officer of money-losing mortgage giant Freddie Mac was found dead in his basement early Wednesday morning in what police said was an apparent suicide.

David Kellermann, 41, apparently hanged himself, said a law enforcement official who asked not to be identified because the investigation was ongoing.

Kellermann's death is the latest in a string of blows to Freddie Mac since it was seized by the government last September. The company, which owns or guarantees about 13 million mortgages, has been criticized for financing risky loans that fueled the real estate bubble and are now defaulting at a record pace.

Freddie Mac lost more than \$50 billion last year, and the Treasury Department has pumped in \$45 billion to keep the company afloat.

Last month, David Moffett, the government-appointed chief executive, resigned in frustration over strict oversight.

Kellermann worked for Freddie Mac more than 16 years, starting as a financial analyst and auditor. He was named acting chief financial officer last September when the government ousted former CEO Richard Syron and Kellermann's predecessor Anthony S. "Buddy" Pizsel.

Neighbors said Kellermann

had lost a noticeable amount of weight under the strain of the new job. Some neighbors said they suggested Kellermann should quit to avoid the stress, but he responded that he wanted to help the company through its problems. They did not want to be quoted by name because they didn't want to upset the family.

As the company's financial chief, Kellermann oversaw a staff of about 500 and was working on the company's first-quarter financial report, due by the end of May. Federal regulators closely oversee the company's books and sign off on major decisions.

That relationship was tense and stressful, with Kellermann working long hours, a colleague said. Freddie Mac executives recently battled with federal regulators over whether to disclose potential losses on mortgage securities tied to the Obama administration's housing plan, said a person familiar with the deliberations who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Freddie Mac and sibling company Fannie Mae have both come under fire from lawmakers because they plan to pay more than \$210 million in bonuses through next year to give workers the incentive to stay in their jobs. Kellermann got \$170,000 and was to receive another \$680,000 over the next year.

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