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Montana Kaimin, March 15, 2013

Students of The University of Montana, Missoula

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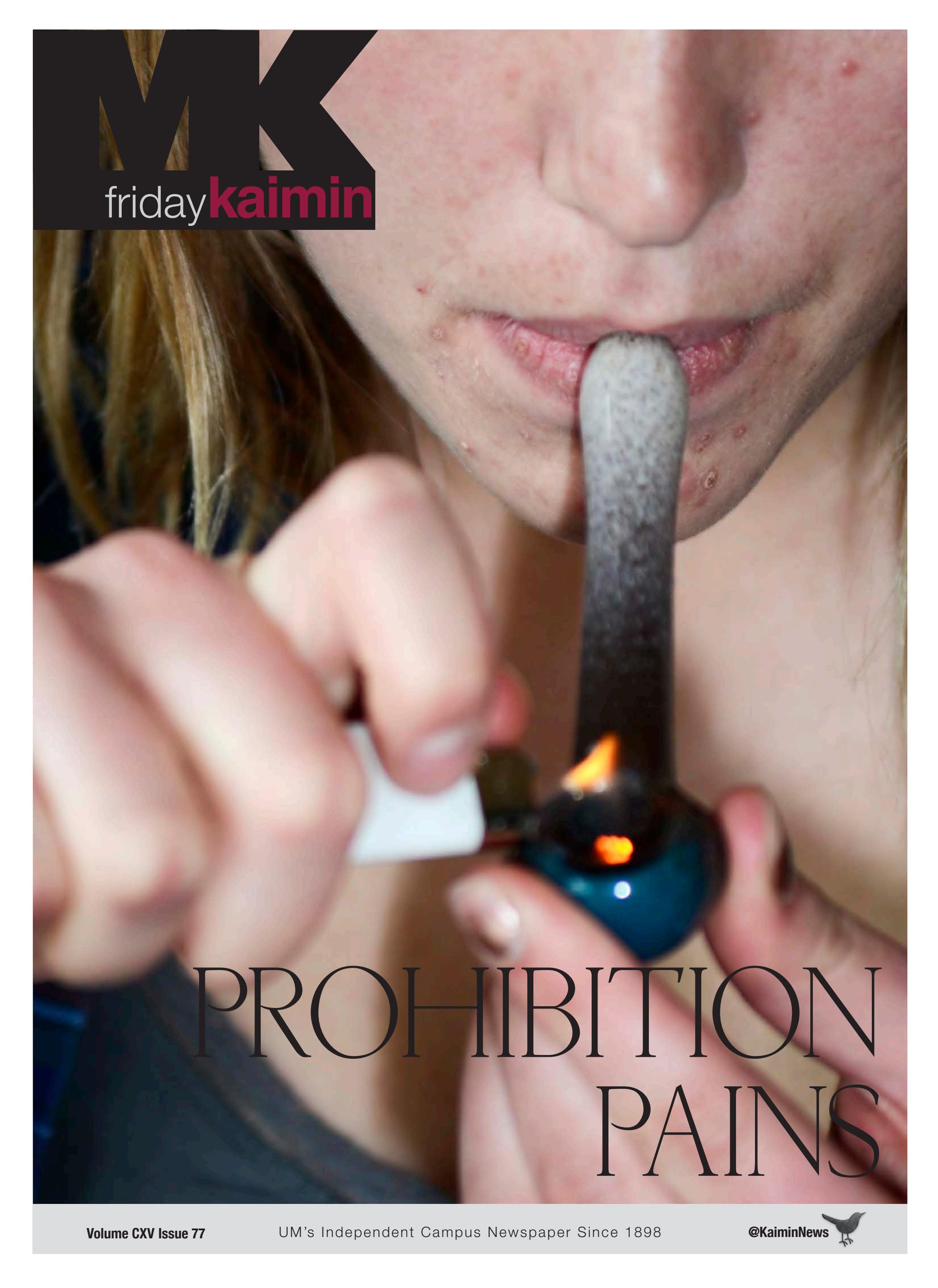
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WK
friday **kaimin**



PROHIBITION PAINS





(ANTI)SOCIAL COLUMN

INTROVERTS ANONYMOUS

Tournament Intimidation

By Ric Sanchez

Praise the basketball gods, this year Missoula hosts the men's and women's Big Sky Conference Tournaments. Whether you're a die-hard hoops fan or just want to support your Grizzlies, the level of competition in Dahlberg Arena this week can't be missed.

There's just one problem — all those people.

In addition to the regular legion of Griz faithful in attendance, the University of Montana is hosting 12 other teams — including their parents, fans and perma-smiling cheerleaders. For the socially anxious, this can be a lot to handle.

Fear not, wallflowers, you can enjoy the tourney too.

Seating will be scant at best. The first 1,000 students get free admission, so make sure to get in line early. When the Griz hosted last year's tourney, some students skipped class and camped out as early as six hours before tipoff. If you're so motivated, it's best to have a line buddy — they can save you from casual line chitchat and hold your spot when you have to pee (or the empty Coke bottle, depending on your level of commitment).

On that note, sports chitchat is the most tolerable version of chitchat. It's a universal topic with regional implications. Whether you're from Missoula or Greeley, Spokane or Syracuse, every basketball fan has an opinion on man versus zone defense. Even easier, this weekend whether in line or in the stands, you're most likely talking to another Griz fan. Sit back and espouse your opinions, you'll get no pushback. If you're not the biggest basketball fan, fear not. Just smile, nod and insert the phrases, "Cherry's foot," "Katie Baker," "post presence," and "beyond the arc" into any conversation with varying, arbitrary levels of voice inflection. You're now overqualified to be a TNT "Inside the NBA" analyst.

Once inside the student section, you'll be flanked by well-meaning but mostly drunk classmates and the UM pep band. So begins the battle of obnoxious chants. Between the student section's off-rhythm clapping and the band's "Left! Right! Left! Right! Sit down!" foul-out taunt, your opportunity for witty in-game commentary is slim. Sure, there are a lot of traditions to remember: turning away while the PA announces the opposing lineup; which way to wave during free-throws; which opposing players should do what with which body parts. The rituals may seem more like church than sports, but for introverts who have trouble connecting to one person, they're a great way to feel unified in a crowd of 7,500. Just don't get too rowdy and shake the hoop. (See: 2012 Big Sky Championship.)

Groups are scary and crowds are scarier, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be able to enjoy the Big Sky Conference Tournament. Like your mother encouraged you in high school, school functions are a great way to get involved and make friends — except this time there's tailgating.

We're representing UM not just to national television, but 12 other teams, families and athletic departments from around the West. Let's be spirited, courteous and gracious hosts.

If it becomes too much, you can always hide behind one of those giant cardboard cutouts of Kareem Jamar's face.

ricardo.sanchez@umontana.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOON



callan berry mumblecity.com

BIG UPS | BACKHANDS

Big ups to language like "the bill died in the House" when talking about gun control bills. Think about it: "This just in, gun violence is on an ironic streak — more at 10."

Backhands to Pope Francis. Though the church isn't breaking tradition in electing an anti-gay pope, they broke tradition by going with a "New Worder." Which means everyone lost their bets. Thanks, Frank.

Big ups to herpes research going down in the Clapp building. This should speak for itself. The Onion can't even come up with stuff this good.

Backhands to St. Patrick's Day. Not the holiday itself, but the fact that we have obligations on Monday that the government hasn't yet pardoned — we need a St. Hangover's Day!

Big ups to the solar panels on downtown's new parking garage. Now we can also blame the sun for added nighttime light pollution. Yay!

Backhands to Samsung's Galaxy S4. It's like the iPhone with Xbox Kinect inside. Do we really need that? No, we need one better — just install the damn things in our heads.

montana kaimin

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NATIONAL

UM students promote festival in New York

Katheryn Houghton
Montana Kaimin

Students at the University of Montana are the only university group in the nation to promote Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival, which will be held at Madison Square Garden on April 12 and 13. Though thousands of miles from New York, the UM Entertainment Management program is using social media to close the gap.

"The students have a learning experience that includes developing the Crossroads website, establishing a Facebook and Twitter address and having a marketing campaign for all of it," said Maria Brun-

ner, owner of marketing firm InSight Management and guest instructor at UM.

Though managing an event that will take place in New York from Montana comes with difficulties, the use of social media has allowed UMEM to stretch across borders.

This month, the program's Crossroads Facebook page reached more than 11,000 likes. This story of management from afar is similar to many others unfolding globally.

"Even if we're six or seven years into the big social media age, I feel like it's still the Wild West," Darah Fogarty, a UMEM student, said. "There's a lot of noise and clutter as the world is

still figuring out how to use it but I do think social media will be a component for all major promotions."

The two-day collaborative festival will follow Clapton's month-long U.S. tour. The event is a fundraiser for Crossroads Centre, which treats people with alcoholic or drug dependencies on the Caribbean island of Antigua.

Sandi Nelson, a UM graduate and adviser in the School of Business Administration and alongside the UMEM students, said this project has been a more demanding than she expected.

"I've realized sometimes people need things *now*," Nelson said, laughing. "Peo-

ple think that pressure is always negative but honestly it's helped us really come up with a great product."

Nelson said while fans and followers wait for the festival, UMEM is finding ways to connect the online world with something tangible and draw more people to their sites.

After clicking 'like' on the Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival 2013 Facebook page, one becomes eligible to win a Hard Rock Café shirt made to celebrate the festival, before it's even available to the public.

"It's always great when you can walk away from something as simple as clicking 'like' and end up with a really exclusive prize," Nelson said.

The UMEM team is leaving Montana's mark on this New York event. Since the event is a fundraiser, musicians are not paid. However, the UMEM team has put together gift bags unique to each musician — and to New York, considering the items are from Montana.

Another UM student and UMEM worker, Becca Gairrett,

said this was a fun way to share their experience with Montana.

"There's such an appreciation for a sense of community in Montana, and it was on everyone's mind to try and translate that to the big-city minds and to artists who can buy anything they want but are getting something special from Montana," she said.

About seven UMEM students, including Nelson, Fogarty and Gairrett, will attend the event in New York City and continue to lend a hand.

The UMEM team said while the online world has been a great way to draw in all ages and reach people nationwide, social media can't be everything.

"I think social media will be relevant as long as everyone lives on Facebook, but I really feel like there's this personal thing missing," Gairrett said as her teammates nodded in agreement. "Whatever you're trying to sell, there's this human thing about experiencing it for yourself."

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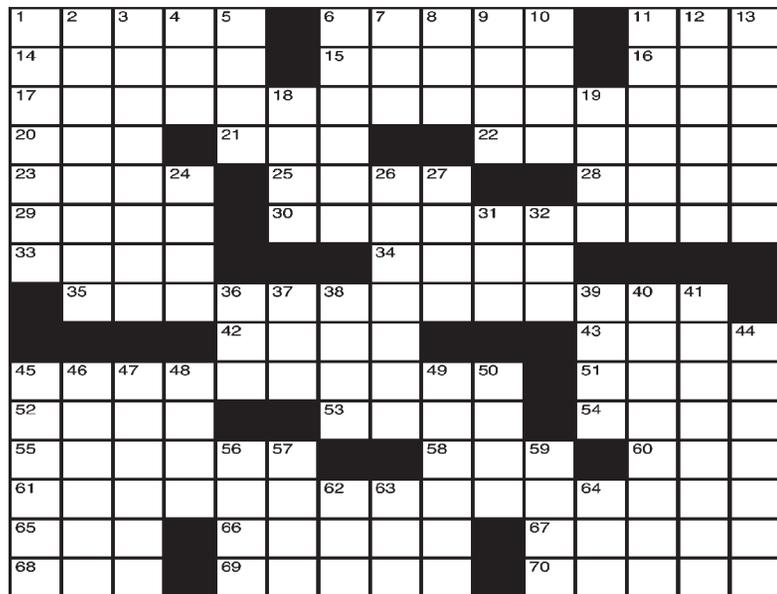
FOR RELEASE MARCH 15, 2013

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Suggests for the future
- 6 Mark on a paper
- 11 Kid's cry
- 14 Harden
- 15 It may shimmer in the desert
- 16 Off-road transp.
- 17 Cherub?
- 20 Film buff's station
- 21 Luanda is its cap.
- 22 Share the bill
- 23 Put in long hours
- 25 Chewy caramel candy
- 28 Carpet cleaners, briefly
- 29 Sicilian resort city
- 30 Slogan for certain Lee fans?
- 33 Part of a process
- 34 Sorvino of "Mighty Aphrodite"
- 35 Sendoff for a Christmas shopper?
- 42 Van Gogh subject
- 43 Adult polliwog
- 45 Pepper?
- 51 Spanish river to the Mediterranean
- 52 Firenze fellow
- 53 "But all I want is ___'iggins' 'ead!": "My Fair Lady" lyric
- 54 Unburdens
- 55 Little rascals
- 58 Fish you can smoke
- 60 Oolong, for one
- 61 Windy day misfortunes during a spa visit?
- 65 Divine healer in "Xena"
- 66 "500" index that hints at this puzzle's theme
- 67 Unexpected lamp benefit?
- 68 Aspin of the Clinton Cabinet
- 69 In a fitting way
- 70 Aircraft fuel portmanteau



By Jack McInturff

3/15/13

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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DOWN

- 1 Reams out
- 2 Calendar unit, perhaps
- 3 Beloved in "Man of La Mancha"
- 4 Airport near a Gt. Lake
- 5 Dreamcast maker
- 6 Number beyond comprehension
- 7 Indian author Santha Rama
- 8 Biblical mount
- 9 Frisbee, e.g.
- 10 Hockey's Phil, to fans
- 11 Rum and curaçao cocktail
- 12 "Sic 'em!"
- 13 Ill-disposed
- 18 Crucifix letters
- 19 "Let us know," initially
- 24 Reindeer raiser
- 26 Enters the poker pot with a minimum bet, slangily
- 27 "The Grapes of Wrath" character
- 31 Sea eagle
- 32 Living in a blue state?
- 36 Water___: dental gadget
- 37 Jr. and sr.
- 38 '70s-'80s quarterback Brian

- 39 Road to the Forum
- 40 Mom's admonition to a rambunctious tot
- 41 Fragrant white flower
- 44 Amounts that often specify a time frame
- 45 Orchardist's market measure
- 46 Place
- 47 Valuable violins
- 48 Dot-___
- 49 Spine-tingling
- 50 Buds on spuds
- 56 Tower site
- 57 Clothes closer
- 59 Org. for women drivers?
- 62 Detonation cause
- 63 Cholesterol letters
- 64 Gun

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MISSOULA

Out with the old, in with the new music

Taylor W. Anderson
Montana Kaimin

Rather than trying to figure out what's new about the Top Hat, try and figure out what's stayed the same.

The charming dinginess that comes with more than 60 years of patronage is gone. Steve Garr and his children are gone. The old style, layout, look and feel of the Top Hat have been washed away with a thorough redo from the hands of owner Nick Checota.

As a member of a local band said during a soft opening a week ahead of the grand opening, "It smells like there's not enough dirt in the floors."

When it re-opens Friday night with free bluegrass after closing last November, Missoula will witness a colossal music venue re-enter town and try to dominate a niche market.

With 300 added extra capacity, expensive, state-of-the-art acoustics and a complete redesign of the bar that has existed as a music venue since the 1950s, the Top Hat has rebuilt into what could become one of the premier music destinations in the Northwest.

At least that's what owner Checota wants.

To do so, Checota has injected the local economy with money he made developing 2.5 million square feet of medical facilities nationwide. He has teamed up with some of Missoula's music leaders, and he's used a marketing mastermind that may pave the way for Missoula to get back on the music map.

On Sept. 22, 2012, Checota closed on his purchase of the Top Hat. The venue, which has hosted acts like Bo Diddley, B.B. King and Stevie Ray Vaughan, is well known in town as a blues, jazz and bluegrass bar.

Checota is the fourth owner since the 1950s. His predecessor, Steve Garr, died in 2009 after running the Top Hat since the mid-1980s.

His kids ran the bar, which Checota said broke even financially as it sat on the market for three years.

With dim light that shone across a turn-of-the-century Brunswick bar and with paint fading on walls that closed off views inside, the Top Hat had become dated and in need of a



Brooks Johnson/Montana Kaimin

A couple dances during Redwood Sons second set of the night. The Portland, Ore., band played a musicians-only soft opening on Friday, March 8.

major facelift.

Local acts were interspersed with national headliners that would stop on their way to bigger markets in Minneapolis, Boise, Seattle or Portland. In November, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real rolled up in Willie Nelson's old bus and played a show for about 50 people before moving to the next Northwest town a few hours later.

Checota's grand vision is to emerge on the map not as a pass-through spot for bands to make enough money to fill up the tank of their van or bus, but as a Fillmore, a Doug Fir, an Independent.

He wants to be the best venue not in Montana but in the Northwest. He wants to be in the top 50 venues nationwide.

But what he wants and what he needs are few and far between.

What he needs is to consistently fill his 690-capacity revamped venue when national acts like Toubab Krewe and Sister Carol and Mykal Rose and Greg Brown come to town in March, April and July.

He needs locals to embrace the new vegetarian-friendly tapas menu created by local chef Erin Crobar, the nationally touring comedian shows,

the Family Friendly Friday night events.

He needs Missoula.

And so far, Checota has hit points straight-on in his approach to creating something locals will cherish and support, whether it's a free local show, an \$8 Hillstomp act, or a \$15 Owen Benjamin comedy act.

Few things about the layout inside the two combined 1880s buildings are the same.

The same main bar still sits on the east side of the venue. Big, arching mirrors still reflect the backs of liquor bottles behind barbacks. The bricks on the west wall that once hid beneath a thick layer of dust and ash have been blasted clean.

That's about where the similarities end.

There's a new smell inside. It smells like a construction site, fresh paint and new materials pieced together by local artists and contractors.

Musicians flocked the Top Hat on March 8 for a free show from Portland's Redwood Son. Guests met at the front door another of Checota's great feats: a partnership with Tracy Lopez, the voice of the Trail 103.3 FM.

Lopez and Checota invited any local musician to the

Top Hat for the free show, free food and some free drinks.

Cocktail waitresses in training walked through the new open space inside with trays depleted by hungry guitarists, singers and rhythmists. Bacon-wrapped dates with cheesy insides were demolished. Trays of spinach empanadas vanished. Waitresses streamed through the bar filled with musicians.

A bucket of free cold beer was refilled and emptied several times. Other people sat at one of the two—that's right, two—bars and bought drinks.

Hundreds in attendance watched the acoustic and electric guitar-driven Northwest rock band Redwood Son play a solid three-hour show.

"Does anyone out there mind if we play a cover?" the lead singer asked, to which very few in attendance uttered lackluster responses.

It was initiated by Lopez's knowledge from eight years with the Trail and a few more with KBGA.

The Trail will broadcast every Friday from 4:00-5:30 p.m. from the Top Hat, showcasing either bands playing that night or doing another kind of local lunch with Lopez as host.

As she sits in an upstairs of-

fice that smells new, stacks of papers and invitation strewn across a sturdy new desk, Lopez looks busy.

To those who know her better, she looks passionate. Dedicated.

Lopez started selling Checota radio ads after he emerged as the Top Hat buyer in 2012. She was excited about the prospect of a revitalized venue in town, she said.

"My boss came in and said 'Maybe you should go talk to Nick. I see the passion back in your eyes.'"

Lopez and Checota inked a deal to put her in a position to buy the music for the Top Hat.

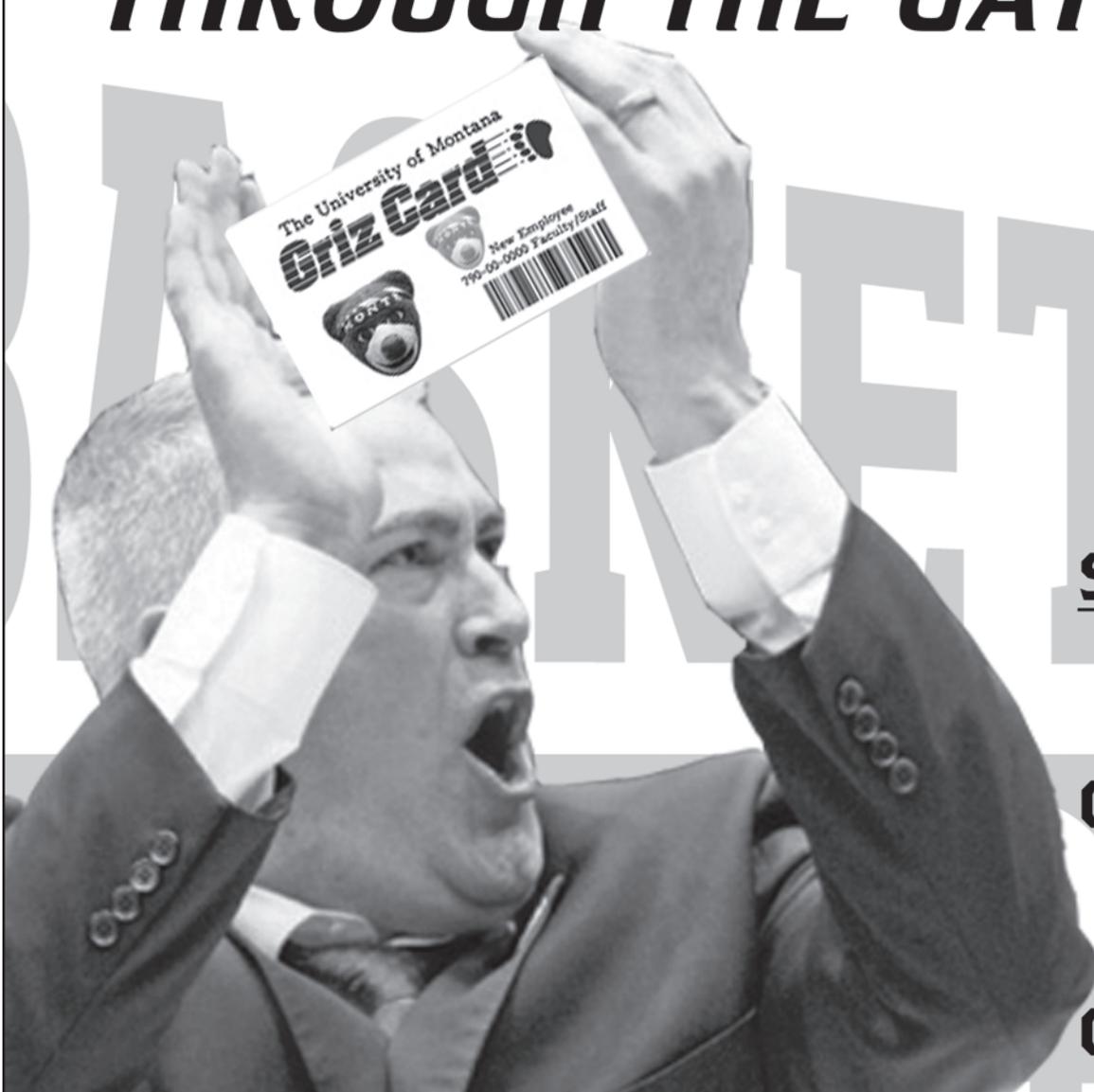
Lopez's radio shows span the musical spectrum from soul to funk, reggae to hip-hop — the good hip-hop, she adds. Her background as one of Missoula's foremost radio DJs will crossover to her position as Checota's music buyer. Lopez and Checota repeatedly stressed the music.

"I think some people were concerned that we'd move away from the music," Checota said. "For us, music's at the core of what we're doing. It was really to be the best music venue in the Northwest. So I hope people get dispelled of that fear."

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CAMPUS

DOJ reports on violence against women

Bjorn Bergeson
Montana Kaimin

A report by the U.S. Justice Department says that rapes and acts of violence against women have statistically dropped off by 64 percent over the last ten years. The same report cites that in 2010 alone, there were 283,200 rapes. That's down from the 1995 figure of over 500,000. Some say that a main reason for the decline is the Violence Against Women Act.

"The study coincides with the passage of VAWA to show that it actually is having a positive effect," Beth Hubble, chair of the Women and Gender studies program at the University of Montana, said.

"The Violence Against Women Act was written in the 90's, by former-Senator Biden's offices. It is a program in the Department of Justice that funds

a bunch of different grant programs across the nation that focus on ending violence against women," Hubble said.

According to Hubble, VAWA funds are used locally for the Crime Victims Advocates offices, and the YWCA, along with other programs. UM also has a cooperative agreement grant through VAWA.

The original VAWA expired in 2011 and was abandoned until last week when Congress renewed and expanded it. The expansions include new powers for tribal governments across the country to pursue and prosecute rapists. The old version of VAWA had no protections for Native American women, and as reservations are considered sovereign governments in many ways, if a non-tribal member abused a native woman, there was little the tribes could do to prosecute. The new version of

the VAWA also includes protections for the LGBTQ community, as well as new guidelines for college campuses.

Men Of Strength club said. "At the same time, I think that more is better, and there is still a lot of work to be done."

"We've seen that a lot in our community over the last year and a half. And it's pervasive in society."

Beth Hubble,
chair of WGS program

The Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act, or SaVE, is an expansion of VAWA that makes reporting and investigating sexual assaults mandatory on college campuses. It also sets aside funding and resources for bystander intervention training and programs.

"Bystander intervention is a really powerful tool. I think the University has been working really hard," Zed Kramer of UM's

Men Of Strength is a student group that hopes to empower men to act against sexual violence.

Sexual assault has been a hot-button subject in Missoula, and on UM's campus, for the last year. The town and the campus have been the subject of federal investigations, and a recent high-profile trial has put the topic at the forefront of community conversation. And not

all of it has been civil.

"We are seeing both a backlash and a movement toward that," Hubble said. "The movement is active bystander intervention: Making it about how we're all men and women, allies in this, and how can we stop it before it starts — not seeing it as a woman's issue, or marginalizing it as a woman's issue, developing more and more men in the movement as allies."

Along with intervention tactics, advocates hope that more conversation and dialogue can bring a change in societal attitudes towards sexual violence.

"I think there is a lot of fear and hurt on both sides," Kramer said. "That really influences how people respond to this material. I think that one of the first steps is being able to be a little less reactive. I think it needs to be talked about more."

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TOP HAT

From page 4

Brandon Zimmer, sound engineer for the Garr Top Hat, was kept on paid leave during the three months of remodeling.

Lopez stood outside the Top Hat March 8, acting as part bouncer, part greeter, as musicians continued to flock, each filling out a contact sheet before heading inside.

That Rolodex of contacts for local artists sits on Lopez's upstairs desk beneath the big new windows overlooking West Front Street, and it's clear what the intention is.

The Top Hat is trying to

establish itself as a weeklong events venue. The new tapas menu will be served for lunch and dinner while singer/songwriters and jazz musicians will add background music.

On weeks when the Top Hat isn't hosting bigger acts, Black Mountain Moan, the Kitchen Dwellers, the Dodgy Mountain Men or countless other local acts will take the stage that was expanded 150 square feet during the remodel.

A 17-foot screen was installed behind the stage for movie nights. Checota also says the Top Hat will host movies for documentary film

festivals like the Big Sky Film Festival.

The Top Hat has 31 events scheduled on its new website between now and May. Seventeen of those are free, including multiple shows and free movies on Mondays. For the 14 events that cost money, tickets average \$9.50-\$11 apiece.

"The problem that I had with the Top Hat financially is it didn't make money because you couldn't make a business off of running something from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. four days a week," Checota said from his office two days before his grand opening.

Just shy of a 700-person ca-

capacity, Checota's niche venue sits between the 1,100 seats the Wilma can fill and the 350 the Top Hat used to sell. Monk's Bar on Ryman is roughly the size of the old Top Hat.

By Saturday morning, Checota will have better hunch as to whether he's established a premier venue in Missoula. As Checota, Lopez, Zimmer, Crobar and others work in the Top Hat in the final hours before opening, they seem calm.

"We're all about the music," Checota said.

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Where's

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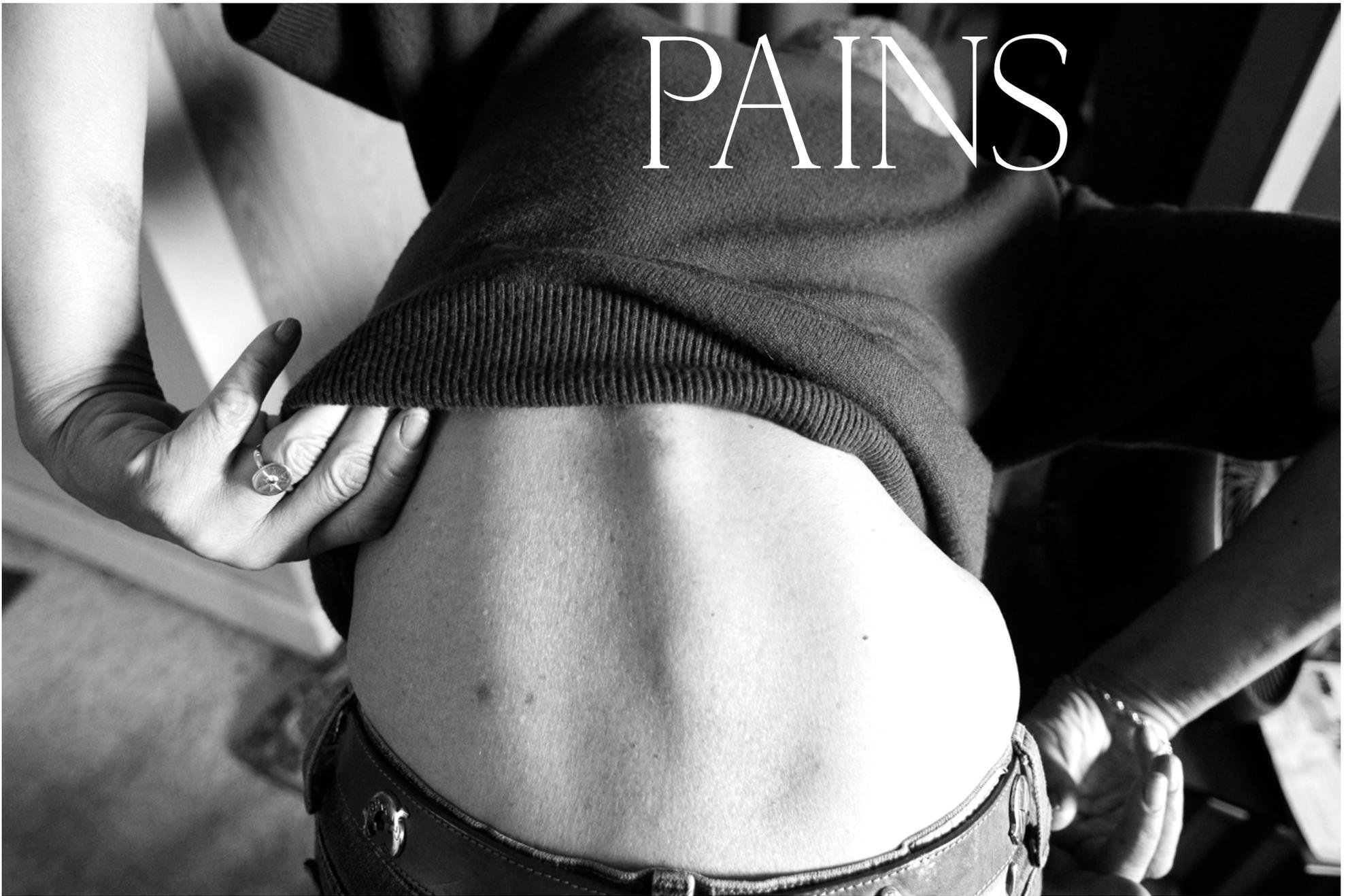
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PROHIBITION

Story by
Ketti Wilhelm
Photos by
Samuel Wilson



A Missoula medical marijuana patient reveals her back, twisted from scoliosis. Although marijuana does not cure the condition, she says it makes the pain tolerable.

THE CARPET of a smoky, one-bedroom apartment overlooking the Clark Fork River is dotted with cigarette burns — reminders of days when powerful narcotic painkillers became too much for the 110-pound woman whose life fills those small rooms.

She's impressively spry for how sick her body is from leukemia, severe degenerative scoliosis and a damaged heart after multiple major cardiac arrests. But her life has gotten much easier since she moved to Montana from the Southeast several years ago.

"I found peace here," she said. "And a lot of the peace is that I can get the medication I need legally."

That medication is marijuana — and it has taken the place of three prescription pain killers that used to make her tired and groggy, sometimes so much so that she would fall asleep sitting up.

"Next thing you know, the

cigarette is on the floor and so are you," she said, shaking her head.

"You smoke enough to take the edge off the pain," she said, standing hunched over in her kitchen, her spine contorted from scoliosis and previously broken ribs. "The cannabis doesn't get rid of the pain, it just helps me ride the flow."

She told her story on the condition of anonymity because she lives in a federally-funded retirement home and could be thrown out for using medical marijuana.

"If they put me out, I literally have nowhere to go," she said with a nervous look across her usually smiling face.

Marijuana is illegal under federal law, regardless of whether it's used as a medicine.

In her mid-60s, she's just above the age group of most medical marijuana patients in Montana — 51 to 60, according to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

If Montana's medical marijuana system were repealed, she said she wouldn't be able to go back to pharmaceuticals knowing "there's something better, something that keeps me calm and keeps me pain free."

"I'd have to go underground again," she said, recalling how she used to buy marijuana through college students who knew how to find it on the street. "That's just the honesty of it."

HERS IS not the only life that has been complicated by contradictory laws from state and federal governments.

No matter what a state has on the books concerning marijuana, the federal government considers it a schedule one drug, along with heroin and many psychedelics. Schedule one, the most strictly regulated category in the federal Controlled Substances Act, means marijuana has no medical use, cannot be used safely and has

high potential for abuse.

While campaigning in 2008, Barack Obama stated several times that, if elected, his administration wouldn't pursue medical marijuana patients or providers if they were clearly acting within the realm of state law. After the election, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder confirmed that as the administration's policy.

In the summer of 2009, with apparent federal approval, Montana's medical marijuana industry took off. For almost two years, it was a booming mess of downtown storefronts, with everyone's roommate boasting a "green card" certifying his or her supposedly legitimate need to smoke, and grow, medical marijuana. There were few rules and it wasn't difficult to find someone who knew how to get around them.

Meanwhile, legitimate patients were caught up in the hysteria of a state divided between those who saw the outlandish system as a source of

idiosyncratic pride, and those who were enraged by it.

Two years ago, a major upset hit Montana's medical marijuana system.

On March 14, 2011, hours, at most, after the Legislature refused to repeal the state's entire medical marijuana system, a coalition of state and federal agencies — including the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Agency — raided 24 medical marijuana businesses with guns drawn, destroying around \$800,000 worth of plants and arresting employees.

"We won't know, probably ever, what motivated them," said Chris Lindsey, president of the Montana Cannabis Information Association and, at the time of the raids, an attorney for several dozen caregivers.

"That's the 64-thousand-dollar question," he said. "Why, in Montana, did this happen this way?"

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

MONTANA MEDICAL MARIJUANA

BY THE NUMBERS

Data from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services

Montana Marijuana Program Registry Information

Patient, Provider and Physician Summaries

Patient Summary February 2013

Patients with current enrollments	7,493
Deceased patients	82
Patients with no provider	2,679

Provider Summary February 2013

Providers associated with patients with current enrollments	300
Deceased providers	6

Physician Summary February 2013

Physicians associated with patients with current enrollments	203
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Counties with the Highest Number of Patients and Providers

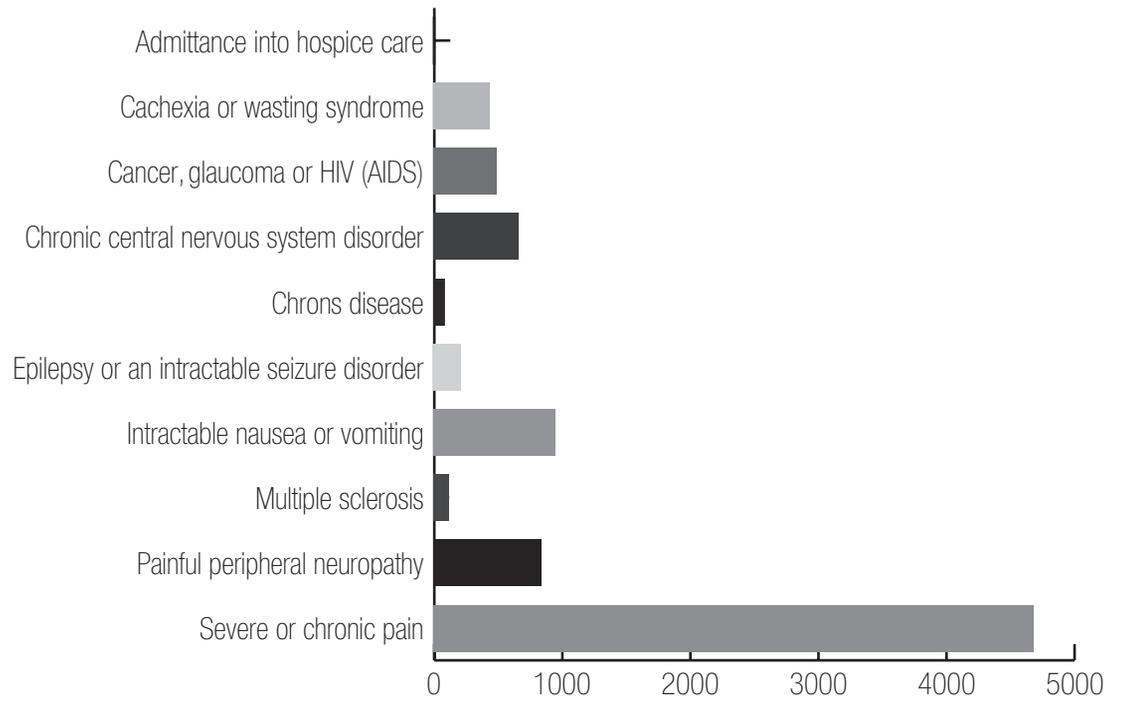
Patients

1. Gallatin: 1,120
2. Flathead: 811
3. Yellowstone: 753
4. Missoula: 723
5. Silver Bow: 661

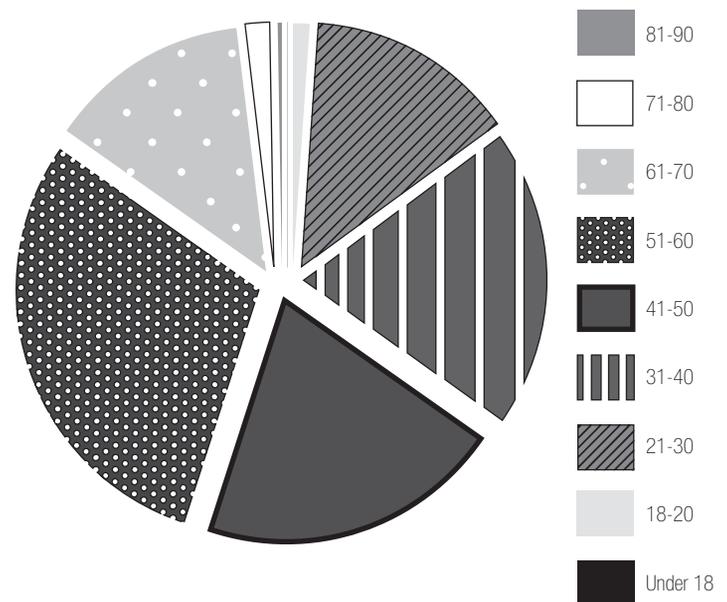
Providers

1. Gallatin: 53
2. Flathead: 43
3. Missoula: 40
4. Yellowstone: 22
5. Ravalli: 21

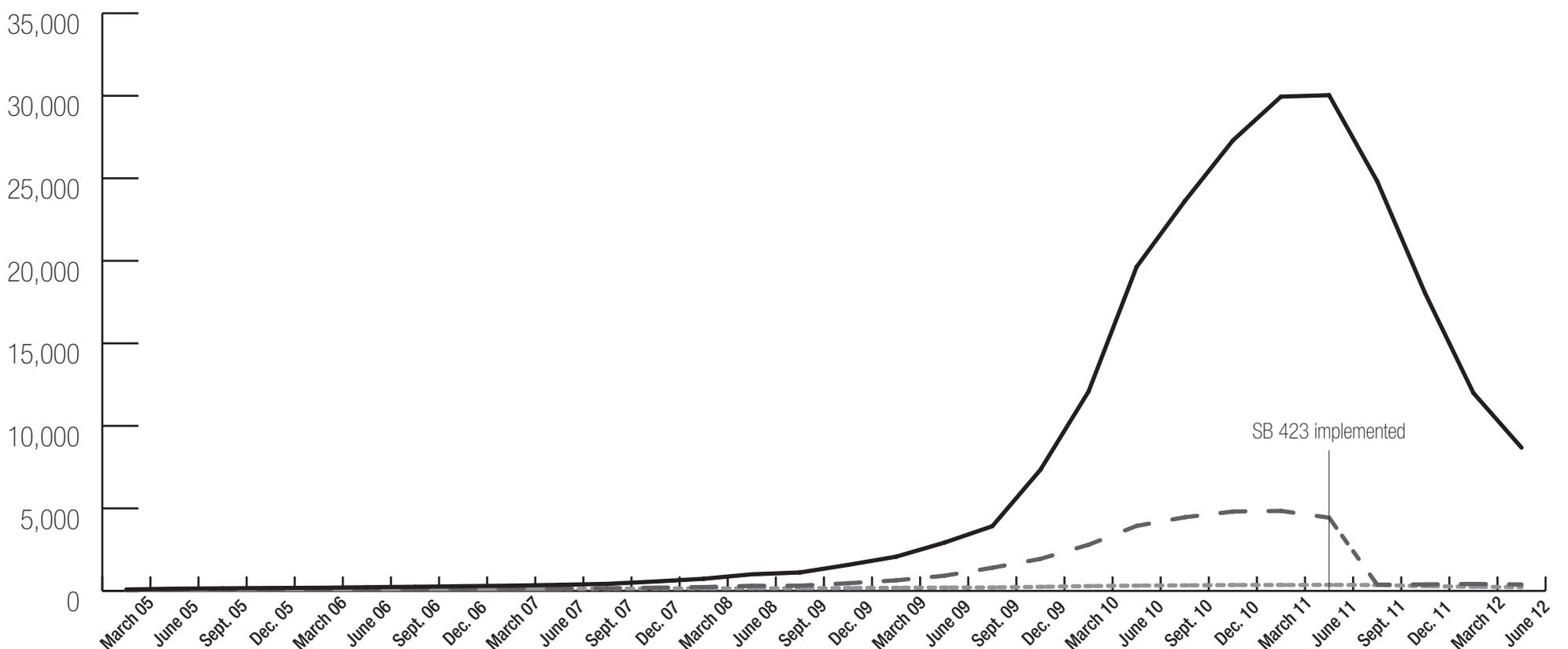
ACTIVE ENROLLMENT BY CONDITION



PATIENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE



HISTORY OF QUALIFYING PATIENTS, PROVIDERS AND DOCTORS JANUARY 2006-JUNE 2012





Chris Lindsey answers a call requesting information about cannabis use during pregnancy. Although his law license has been revoked, he works as a paralegal at Jasper Smith Olson and gives marijuana-related advice on his own time.

Lindsey said three factors likely contributed.

First, the Montana Legislature failed to regulate the system effectively, so it was difficult for providers to be in compliance with state law when the laws were ambiguous and didn't address important aspects of the business. It was easy for federal agencies to accuse businesses of violating state law.

In addition, 24 raids were enough to smack down the state's entire industry and send a clear message.

"We're a cheap date," Lindsey said. "Your law enforcement dollar goes a long way in Montana. It doesn't take a lot of raids to completely chill the industry here."

For comparison, he added that to achieve the same effect per capita, California would require 900 raids in a single day.

And lastly, Lindsey said, the Montana Legislature was more supportive of the raids than other states' politicians.

"Montana loves to think of itself as libertarian," Lindsey said, "but it really only applies to guns and health care."

The raids traumatized the industry, laying the groundwork for the Legislature to strike a death blow and end medical marijuana in Montana for the foreseeable future.

THE LEGISLATURE did strike. But the industry fought back.

Days before the end of the 2011 legislative session, Senate Bill 423 easily passed both houses of the Legislature with broad Republican support and became law without former Gov. Brian Schweitzer's signature.

The bill replaced the original medical marijuana program with a law Lindsey said was designed to decimate the industry with new rules, making it impossible to run a medical cannabis business.

"We now have a law that was designed not to regulate because they didn't think there would be anything to regulate," Lindsey said.

The new law also changed the terminology of the program — a subtle testament to what the Legislature thought of its legitimacy. Businesses selling medical marijuana, formerly known as "caregivers," became "providers" under the new law; customers of these businesses, formerly "patients," became "card-holders."

The Montana Cannabis Information Association sued and won a preliminary injunction that blocked five important parts of the law from going into effect.

These five sections would have limited a medical marijuana provider to serving three card-holders, prevented a provider from accepting anything of value for its product, banned all forms of advertising, allowed warrantless searches of providers, and required doctors who recommend medical marijuana to more than 25 patients a year be investigated, at their own expense, by the state.

If those stipulations hadn't been declared unconstitutional in district court, SB 423 would have destroyed the state's medical marijuana industry and most patients would have been left without a legal source for their medicine, except to grow it themselves.

Lindsey said that's the biggest reason his organization brought the suit.

"We couldn't just walk away," he said. "The lawsuit continues for as long as it takes. All that's happened is we've been fighting for the injunction — and that's just the prelude to the real fight."

If the ongoing lawsuit fails, the five blocked provisions of SB 423 will be back and in full effect, but any surviving businesses will still be unregulated.

But if MTCA wins the suit, the judge could choose to overturn the entire law, as requested, or he could make the injunction permanent. The latter, Lindsey said, is more likely. It's anyone's guess when the case will be decided.

Montana will remain in limbo until then, unless the Legislature acts.

"On the state level, there's



University Police detective Chris Croft goes through a box of adjudicated evidence in the Office of Public Safety on Sunday. Croft estimates that his office holds around 150 pieces of marijuana paraphernalia and four to six ounces of marijuana at any time.

nothing to prevent an exact repeat of what we had in 2009 and 2010," Lindsey said. "The only check is the threat of federal action."

The federal action that started it all worked its way into Lindsey's personal life, too.

"About six months after the raids," he said, "I got a call from the DEA asking me to come down and talk to them, which is never really a call you want to get."

His business involvement with Montana Cannabis, one of the businesses that was raided, ended more than a year earlier, but he hadn't reported the business' federally illegal actions to police, so in their eyes, he was a conspirator.

As a member of the conspiracy, Lindsey, 45, was charged with eight felonies, including possession with intent to distribute. Each charge carried a mandatory minimum sentence for a total of 85 years in prison.

"There was no defense," Lindsey said. "Was I growing marijuana? Yeah. Was I preparing to sell it? Yes."

Being a martyr wasn't an option. Lindsey and his wife have serious health problems and a nine-year-old son at home. He said he couldn't go to trial and risk abandoning his wife and son, even to make a point about the dangerous confluence of state and federal policies.

Instead, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to maintain a drug-involved premise, a lesser charge with no mandatory minimum sentence and got five years of probation and \$288,000 in fines. That figure represents his portion of the \$1.7 million in gross income Montana Cannabis made while it was operating. Even though much of the income was paid out

in taxes and other business expenses, the federal government considered it illegal drug money that had been laundered and must be paid back.

Lindsey's license to practice law was suspended because of his conviction and he is now working as a paralegal in Missoula.

IN MARCH 2011, near the end of the industry's hey-day, almost 5,000 businesses in Montana were dispensing medical marijuana, according to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Now 300 remain, but they operate quietly, in a strange political purgatory. The storefronts have been torn down. The number of patients has fallen drastically from just more than 30,000 in June 2011, the month before SB 423 went into effect, to about 7,500 today.

Around 5,000 of those patients get their marijuana from a provider, as opposed to growing it themselves. And so far, the state refuses to tax those transactions.

That's an odd position for a potentially profitable industry.

"We're a group that actually wants taxes and regulations," Lindsey said.

"The reality is that our Legislature just doesn't like dealing with this at all," he added. "I think they would prefer to ignore it and just hope that it goes away. Anytime you start talking about marijuana and building a system to regulate it, people say our society is just about to come unhinged."

ONLY TWO legislators have introduced bills to reform the medical marijuana system this session.

Rep. Kelly McCarthy, D-Bill-

ings, introduced four bills that would have eliminated the sections of SB 423 that are enjoined, but all died after failing to make it out of committee last month.

Two bills introduced by Missoula Democratic Sen. Dave Wanzon fell to similar fates, but a third still stands.

Senate Bill 377 would have the same effect as McCarthy's four bills — removing the sections of SB 423 that are suspended by the lawsuit — and would also establish a system of regulation and taxation.

"It puts into place a regulatory system that's more comprehensive and more reasonable than the one we have in place now," Wanzon said.

The bill also would establish a new position for marijuana exchange brokers.

Nathan Pierce, the director of Montana Coalition for Rights, the group that helped draft SB 377, said this would solve a common supply problem for providers. Marijuana is a difficult crop to grow and, as with any agricultural endeavor, harvests aren't guaranteed. Some growers end up with more than they can sell, while others see their crops fail.

"It's going to be a lot like a real estate broker," Pierce said. "You have a buyer and seller. The exchange broker would just be there to facilitate the exchange" between two providers.

Under the bill, brokers would have to pay \$1,500 each quarter to maintain their licenses.

Quarterly fees to be paid by providers would include \$1,000 for each location marijuana-infused products are sold, \$15 for each card-holder registered to the provider and \$1 for each plant.

These funds would be split

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



A medical marijuana patient holds her daily cocktail of prescription pills. She says despite the large amount of pills she takes, cannabis allows her to cut at least three prescriptions a day.

equally between state parks and recreation areas, the facility and technology account for public schools, certain Medicaid services, and public works.

Pierce said the bill's fee structure draws on some of the regulations Colorado is implementing for legal recreational marijuana and on other states' medical programs.

SB 377 also loosens some restrictions. For example, providers would no longer need to get background checks, cardholders could have 2.5 ounces of cannabis and six mature plants instead of the current one ounce and four plants and post-traumatic stress disorder would be added to the conditions for which cannabis could be prescribed.

The bill is waiting for review by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Wanzenried said he expects the committee to have a hearing on it late next week.

WHILE THE Big Sky State is still trying to sort out medical marijuana, many other states are moving on toward decriminalization or legalization.

"There's a whole lot of stuff going on in virtually every state but Montana," said Justin Michels, director emeritus of the Montana chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws.

According to Michels, eight states, including Oregon, have pending legislation to legalize marijuana for recreational use. A dozen more, including some generally conservative states like Texas, Missouri and South Carolina, are working on decriminalizing it, while 11 states are considering implementing a medical marijuana program.

Montana was ahead of its neighbors when voters established the

state's medical marijuana program in 2004. Still, none of the states bordering Montana have implemented medical marijuana systems or decriminalization, and none of them show signs of changing anytime soon.

Decriminalization makes marijuana possession no longer a criminal offense. Fourteen states, including Oregon and Minnesota, have decriminalized possession of marijuana to some extent.

In an historic election last fall, Washington and Colorado legalized marijuana for those over 21 years old.

Not to be outdone, Michels said Montana's NORML is looking to follow suit.

"We're trying to pull together some polling numbers to see if it would be worth our while to go for legalization in 2015," he said.

Even in Washington and Colorado, complications abound and

the threat of federal reprisal overshadows efforts at every stage of policy reform.

Marijuana is still banned on the campus of any Washington or Colorado college that receives federal funding. The same is true of medical marijuana for cardholders on Montana campuses.

"The University receives federal money," said Mike Frost, interim director of Counseling and Psychological Services at the University of Montana.

"There's not a university around the country that wants to jeopardize those monies by violating federal law," he added. "We'd be shutting down a big part of our campus if we didn't give out federal financial aid."

LATELY, CAMPUS cops have busted fewer students for marijuana. Last Friday was yet another slow night for University Police officer Nic Painter, in charge of patrolling UM property in search of rowdy drunks, vandals and pot smokers.

"Arresting people isn't fun," Painter said. "I don't find any joy in it. It would be nice to be busier, though."

Resident advisers sometimes add action to officers' shifts when they call in suspiciously noxious smells wafting out from under dorm room doors. But at the dorms' front desks, every RA confirmed there was no trouble that night.

"I don't know if people are getting smarter — they're not doing it in the dorms — or if RAs' noses are getting worse," Painter said, but the calls just aren't coming in.

Painter isn't imagining it. Marijuana use in Montana has declined over the last decade, said Jon Gettman, a professor at Shenandoah University in Virginia, who studies marijuana trends across the country.

But the number of marijuana-related arrests in Montana more than doubled between 2003 and 2007 and has increased across the country, Gettman said, making UM an anomaly.

Arrests by University Police for any sort of drug offense fell from 68 in 2009 to 37 in 2011. The majority of those incidents happened in campus housing.

One consequence of such incidents is a counseling program called Self Over Substance, which combines information sessions with group therapy, which students take when written up for a drug or alcohol violation on campus.

Almost 100 students were mandated to take SOS for marijuana offenses on campus in 2012, Frost said.

Each student paid the program fee, \$70, for a first offense and \$130 for subsequent offenses, but that only covers about 40 percent of the cost of the program.

The remaining \$72,000 in SOS's annual budget comes from stu-

dents' registration fees every semester, Interim Curry Health Center Director Rick Curtis said.

A student who is referred by an RA for marijuana, alcohol or other drug offenses takes the same SOS program as a student who gets an MIP alcohol citation from police, on or off campus. But if the police are called when a student is caught with marijuana, even on campus, he or she has to take a state-sanctioned misdemeanor dangerous drug program. In Missoula, that means a 12-hour informational course at a privately-operated chemical dependency treatment center called Turning Point — to the tune of \$400.

"Your guess is as good as mine for why they have different programs for marijuana and for alcohol," Curtis said. "It's all up to the Legislature. It's the politics of it, I guess."

IT'S NOT just state legislatures that take up marijuana policy changes. On the national level, several bills that could end the perpetual conflict between state and federal laws await committee review.

The Marijuana Tax Equity Act, introduced by Congressman Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., would allow the federal government to tax marijuana, in states where it is legal, the way alcohol and tobacco are taxed. Blumenauer also introduced a bill that prevents the federal government from interfering with states' medical marijuana programs.

Congressman Jared Polis, D-Colo., introduced House Resolution 499, the Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act, which would remove marijuana from the federal Controlled Substances Act, leaving states unencumbered by federal laws in deciding their own marijuana policy.

If that bill becomes law, it would be another instance of changes in marijuana policy mirroring the changes that led to the end of alcohol prohibition.

Kyle Volk, a UM professor of American history, said during Prohibition alcohol was illegal at federal and state levels, just like marijuana is now.

"In the mid-1920s, some states started repealing their enforcement legislation and then it was up to the federal government to enforce it if they wanted to," Volk explained.

In 1933, Prohibition ended, leaving states to choose their own alcohol policies. Thirty-three years later, every state had ended Prohibition.

The bills before Congress have the potential to completely change the way states approach marijuana, both medical and recreational. Otherwise, federal law will inevitably overshadow state law.

"Nothing's really going to change until it changes at the federal level," Michels said. "It's a weird situation at this point."

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THE THIRD RESURRECTION OF WILL CHERRY

Austin Schempp
Montana Kaimin

Will Cherry knew his senior season was over. He had felt this stinging pain before.

With less than four minutes left in an ESPNU Bracketbuster matchup against Davidson, Will Cherry hobbled to the Montana bench, his team down 73-67.

"I felt it pop," Cherry told his coaches and teammates as he limped on his left leg to the bench.

Trainers came over to wrap his right foot in a bag of ice. The relentless ferocity and competitive flame in the senior's dark brown eyes were extinguished by a maroon towel drenched in sweat over his head. This was it. The second wrath of a foot injury left him hopeless, encompassing him in defeat, leaving him thinking about what should have been and what could have been.

Meanwhile, dread set in for his teammates. The Grizzlies had already lost him once, and they also lost their leading scorer, senior Mathias Ward, a game earlier to a left foot injury that later required the senior to miss the remainder of the season to surgery.

Cherry, The 6-foot-1 guard re-injured his right foot, the same foot he broke springing for a lay-in during a pickup basketball game on Sept. 26, a month before the Grizzlies started their quest for a second consecutive Big Sky Conference Championship.

The first time his foot popped, he expected to be out two-and-a-half months, plenty of time to make a comeback. This time, though, he would not have the luxury of time to allow him to heal. It was the second to last game of the regular season.

All of his previous offseason work, the 500-1000 shots each day with assistant coach and fellow Oakland, Calif., native Jonathon Metzger-Jones, was lost in a single moment of a regular season game that the Grizzlies lost in overtime to Davidson, 93-87.

"I was devastated because

I had worked so hard to get to that point of where I was," said Cherry, who soon after the game shifted his focus to his goal of playing professional basketball. "I was 99.9 percent sure that I was done. It popped the same exact way as when it did in the gym. I was getting mentally prepared for surgery."

After the game, Cherry received a call from his mom. He told her it was broken. She told him to have faith, he didn't know for sure. A day later, Feb. 24, X-ray results turned up negative.

"Why does it hurt the same as last time?" he asked doctors. A CT scan the next day did not reveal a break. There was hope.

"That one percent, that had to be a miracle," Cherry said. of his probability that his foot wasn't broken.

The two-time BSC Defensive Player of the year and school record holder for career steals would have one more shot to capture his third conference championship and possibly one more chance at winning his first NCAA Tournament game.

"It was a rush of euphoria," Metzger-Jones said of Cherry's return to the court on senior night, where he played 30 minutes. "We thought (he) was done, no question. But for Will Cherry, personally, to be able to finish his career — one of the best careers in the history of the school — that's what got me so excited. He's going to get a chance to finish it out the right way."

This Friday, a humbled but hungry No. 5 will lead his team in the BSC semifinals, on the court he has called home for the past four seasons and in front of fans that have grown to love the electrifying playmaker. Even before the injuries, most didn't expect Cherry to be playing for his third conference championship.

In high school, Cherry averaged 12 points, eight rebounds, five assists and four steals per game for Oakland area McClymond's High. He scored a game high 19 points to go along with 14 rebounds, helping his eighth-ranked team in the na-



Samuel Wilson/ Montana Kaimin

Will Cherry keeps his eyes on the prize during the University of Montana's 63-50 victory over Northern Arizona University on Saturday in Dahlberg Arena.

tion capture the 2009 California Interscholastic Federation Division I Title.

Despite his impressive stats and performance, he drew no offers from big-time D-I programs, but Montana head coach Wayne Tinkle was impressed and jumped at the chance to snag the underrated guard.

His freshman season in college, Cherry played right away, helping the Grizzlies win a conference championship and secure a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Already, he thumped critics' expectations. He continued to improve and after the hiring of Metzger-Jones, he spent countless hours in the gym perfecting his jump shot.

Metzger-Jones, a shooting specialist of sorts, trained Cherry to bring the ball up the middle instead of up swinging the ball from the left side of his body.

"Will's shot was kind of like a sling-shot," said Metzger-Jones. "He would make some

because he's a natural athlete, but he could never be really consistent doing it."

The offseason work turned the steals master into a consistent offensive threat. Cherry

not believe we did not go after Will Cherry," Metzger-Jones said. "That's how big of a difference Will has made in this program."

Even when Cherry initially

THAT'S JUST LIKE SOMEONE COMING INTO YOUR HOUSE AND TAKING FOOD OFF YOUR TABLE RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU AND YOUR MOTHER.

-WILL CHERRY

went from shooting 22 percent from behind the arc his sophomore season to 38 percent as a junior. He shot almost 50 percent from the field in his junior year.

The lightning quick Cherry was turning the heads of collegiate coaches who had passed on recruiting him.

"I've had coaches come up to me without provocation, without me saying anything to them, and they say I can-

stepped on the court after his broken foot, his impact was felt.

"Will Cherry at 70 percent is probably better than most guards in our league at 100 percent," Metzger-Jones said.

Just look at his résumé: two-time Big Sky Conference Defensive Player of the Year; first team All-Conference three straight seasons; two-time Lou Hensen All-American candidate.

See WILL CHERRY, page 16

BASKETBALL

BSC Tournament Recap

Day Two

No. 5 UNC Bears claw No. 4 Cats 69-56

Erik C. Anderson
Montana Kaimin

No. 5 University of North Colorado (13-17) used an efficient half-court offense and timely shooting to knock the No. 4 Montana State Bobcats (13-17) out of the quarterfinals of the Big Sky Conference tournament 69-56 Thursday night.

"This year has been one learning experience after another, one test," third-year Northern Colorado head coach B.J. Hill said. "The last eight or nine games they've been playing to the potential that I think our staff thought they could for the last 18 months. Tonight was another huge step."

UNC used a 7-0 run late in the second half to power past the Bobcats. Derrick Barden drilled a 3, and Tim Huskisson hit two layups to push the Bears up 55-48 with 7:06 left in the game. But for the Bobcats, it was all over.

UNC's game-changing run came after the Bobcats had pulled within four points when starting guard Christian Moon hit a left-handed scoop shot. Moon paced the Bobcats with 15 points,

but despite his three steals couldn't stop Northern Colorado's shooters.

"They did a good job of shutting us down the first half with that triangle and two," said Bears' shooting guard Tate Unruh, who led all scorers with 21 and shot 3-for-6 behind the arc. "Once we got our confidence going against that weird defense we were rolling."

Sophomore guard Tim Huskisson got the Bears rolling, crashing the offensive glass and making what Hill called the difference in the second half.

"When (the Bobcats) play a triangle and two, you're betting somebody out there isn't going to beat you," Hill said of the Bobcats' defensive scheme.

Huskisson relished his opportunities, finishing with 14 points and seven rebounds.

"I had the opportunity to go to the offensive glass," he said. "I really salivate off that, it gets me going. I got two quick baskets off that and I knew I was going to be able to make plays for the team."

MSU struggled with its half court offense, thanks in large part to two of MSU's top scorers Flavien

Davis and Antonio Biglow missing large portions of the game due to foul trouble. Davis and Biglow combined average 24 points per game for the Cats. Thursday they finished with 16.

MSU's offensive struggles could also be due to the absence of senior Xavier Blount. Bozeman's fourth leading scorer had surgery on his foot last week and never returned for the Cats, who sorely missed his 10 points per game.

In the first half the teams exchanged the lead six times before MSU put together a late 6-0 run courtesy of Paul Egwuonwu's fall-away jumper and an acrobatic runner from point guard Marcus Colbert. Egwuonwu provided spots of offense for the Bobcats in the first, finishing out the first frame with seven points and six rebounds.

The teams split the regular season series. MSU won 69-66 in Greeley and Northern Colorado won most recently 85-72 on Feb. 9 in Bozeman.

Northern Colorado will meet No. 1 seed Montana Friday in the semifinals at 8 p.m.

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No. 2 Weber State rolls No. 7 Northern Arizona 84-58

Austin Schempp
Montana Kaimin

It was all white and purple in the opening game of the 2013 men's Big Sky Conference Tournament, as the No. 2 Weber State Wildcats stomped No. 7 Northern Arizona 84-58.

Four Weber State players scored in double digits for the Wildcats as they picked up their 12th straight win, improving their record to 25-5 for the season.

Senior Frank Otis led the Wildcats with 16 points and grabbed five rebounds, and junior Davion Berry chipped in 13 points, six rebounds and six assists in the opening game of the 2013 BSC Tournament.

Weber State head coach Randy Rahe said he knew his players would come out strong because of the team's last couple of practices.

"We had a really good frame of mind going into this game," Rahe said. "I think when we played Northern Arizona they had our attention. Every one of these guys was giving really good energy to the team."

Freshman DeWayne Russell led the NAU Lumberjacks with 21 points, but also had five turnovers.

NAU committed 15 total turnovers in the loss. The Lumberjacks finished the season 11-21.

Weber State started the game off strong, building a 9-0 lead and held the Lumberjacks to zero points for the first four-plus minutes, before NAU junior Max Jacobsen made a shot off the glass to make it 9-2.

Northern Arizona head coach Jack Murphy said he was proud of his team's effort, especially that of the five seniors, but credited the Wildcats for jumping early.

"They started off the game with a defensive intensity that they hadn't shown in two games with us throughout the season," Northern Arizona head coach Jack Murphy said. "You can't go five minutes without scoring to start off a game, especially with a team like Weber."

Senior center Kyle Tresnak led Weber State with nine points and four rebounds in the first half, while senior Frank Otis chipped in eight points. At the end of the first half Weber State held a 36-21 advantage over the Lumberjacks.

Weber State's defense controlled most of the first half and didn't allow the Big Sky Conference points leader and senior Gabe Rogers to

score more than four points in the opening half.

"They were just playing Weber State defense," said Rogers, who finished the game with 12 points and two assists. "They said Gabe isn't going to beat us and they did that. We struggled."

Shots didn't fall for Northern Arizona as they missed all six of their 3-point attempts in the first half and shot just 37 percent from the field for the entire game.

An improved second-half offensive production by Northern Arizona couldn't compete with Weber State's offense and the Wildcats led by as many as 23.

NAU freshman DeWayne Russell — 6th in scoring for the BSC this season — scored 16 of his 21 points in the second half, but the Wildcats were too far ahead.

"We played them so tough, twice this year," said Murphy of his team, who took Weber State to overtime on Mar. 2, but lost 80-78. "It's tough to play a team that good, close that many times. At some point that talent and skill is going to take over. Today it did."

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No. 3 UND edges
No. 6 SUU 69-52

Alexandria Valdez
Montana Kaimin

In the second game of the men's Big Sky Conference quarterfinal game Thursday, the conference's two newest teams battled it out. The No. 3 seed University of North Dakota emerged victorious over Southern Utah with a 69-52 win.

After a close first half, North Dakota came out on fire to start the second half. The team started the half with a six-point run, with five points coming from junior guard Troy Huff. He led UND with 15 points and seven rebounds. Teammate Mitch Wilmer had a double-double with 11 points and 14 boards.

"I thought, the first half, both teams were kind of tight," North Dakota head coach Brian Jones said. "Toward the end of that first half we found our rhythm defensively and some energy buckets, but really that second half is what we're accustomed to playing like."

Neither team had a first great half, shooting the ball under 35 percent from the field.

North Dakota kept Thunderbirds' two best players, Damon Heuir and Jackson Stevenett in check. Both were named to the All-Big Sky second team and rank third and fourth in BSC scoring with 19.3 and 16.4 points per game, respectively.

None of those accolades mattered to North Dakota. Stevenett

was kept to 15 points and went 5-for-8 from the field while Heuir had only eight points and went 1-for-10. Heuir earned his points from the line going 5-for-9.

"It was a tale of two different halves," Stevenett said. "The first half we came out with a lot of energy and stayed with them the whole half, and then the second half we let down a little bit I think. That's what led to open three's and let them get away from us."

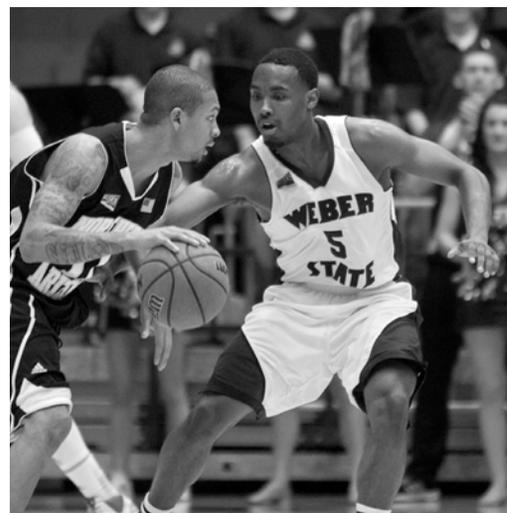
Southern Utah's woes did not go away in the second half. The team shot only 25 percent in the last half for an overall game percentage of 28.8 percent from the field. They also went 26.3 percent on 3-pointers.

Jones said the team shared the ball more, which helped lead their strong defense and the rhythm they found in the second half.

Friday they face No. 2 team Weber State. Last year Weber State made it to the championship round but fell to Montana. Jones knows that this game is crucial.

"The way they played tonight they're on a mission and they've been impressive all year," he said. "It's March and we have to approach that we have to come out and play at a high level. If you don't play at a high level against these guys you're going to be sent home."

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Hunter D'Antuono/Montana Kaimin

DeWayne Russell (12) of Northern Arizona dribbles to avoid Jordan Richardson (5) of Weber State Thursday, in Dahlberg Arena. Weber State beat Northern Arizona 84-58.

MISSOULA

'Steel Magnolias' comes to life in Missoula at MCT

Christopher Allen

Montana Kaimin

The Missoula Children's Theatre aims for empty tissue boxes and lots of laughs when they open their production of Robert Harling's 1987 play "Steel Magnolias" this weekend.

When the metaphorical title is mentioned, people often think of the popular film adaptation, which has a reputation as a tear-jerker. The title refers to the tough but delicate nature of the characters and their response to hardship. Harling was inspired to write the play after the death of his younger sister, who suffered from diabetes.

MCT director TJ Charlson believes this theme serves as the beating heart of the play. "Life goes on even through tragedy: laughter through tears," Charlson said. He's provided direction at the MCT since 1993 and has been involved in over 20 productions.

Events in the play transpire exclusively in a salon located in the fictional small town of Chinquapin, Louisiana. Within its one-room confines, the locals trade stories of triumph and loss, and, in stereotypical fashion, mix it all with a dash of Southern spice. But Charlson doesn't perceive the limitation of performing a play on a single set as a challenge.

"Actually, it's an advantage," he said. Instead of changing sets in between acts and acting

out important events, the characters express the consequences of those events through dialogue. "This is the beauty of theater. The audience gets to use their imaginations. So in some ways, it's better."

Harling later adapted his play for the movie screen at the tail end of the 1980s where it enjoyed an extremely successful run. The emotional subject matter combined with some stirring performances earned the devotion of millions of fans across the world and nearly \$100 million at the box office.

Fans and critics of both the play and film often tout Steel Magnolias as an uplifting tale of human esprit de corps in the face of tragedy; a funny and dramatic account of female companionship when the male figures in their lives have vanished, either physically or emotionally, through death or depression.

As with most dramatic works, the ability of the characters to consistently churn out whip-smart lines of wisdom in the face of crushing realities of life is something to which many people aspire rather than actually emulate.

Known primarily for their musicals, the MCT says this comedic drama is the one non-musical performance of the year.

"It's always nice to have a variety of productions and put on something that can appeal to a specific audience," said Brian

D'Ambrosio, MCT's media relations coordinator.

Unlike many on-stage productions, Steel Magnolias lacks a singular lead character. Instead, six actresses work together to tell the story. "They act like the six strings of a guitar," Charlson said. "One actress may have a line, but they are all affected by what she says. I like to think of it as sympathetic resonance."

The actresses come from different backgrounds through Missoula, each adding their own experiences to their performances.

"Community theater is about building relationships," D'Ambrosio said. "Even those with no theatrical experience can find a place where they belong."

Many shows have a clear leading role, and actors often take turns bowing to the audience at the end. But for Charlson, Steel Magnolias is different.

"Whether they come from a theater background or work as a coffee barista, at the end of this play they all bow together."

christopher.allen@umontana.edu

What: Steel Magnolias

Where: MCT Center for the Performing Arts, 200 Adams St.

When: March 15-17, 20-24, 8 p.m.

How Much: Student Rush \$10 Friday and Saturday only.

THE TO-DO LIST

1

WHAT:

Men's and Women's Big Sky Conference Championships

WHERE:

Dahlberg Arena

WHEN:

Through Saturday

2

WHAT:

Top Hat Reopening – Free Bluegrass Show

WHERE:

The Top Hat

WHEN:

Friday, March 15 @ 6 p.m. 21+

3

WHAT:

St. Patrick's Day Parade

WHERE:

Circle Square on N. Higgins to Grizzly Grocery

WHEN:

Saturday, March 16 @ Noon. Free.

4

WHAT:

Odyssey of the Stars featuring alumna Nancy Erickson

WHERE:

Dennison Theatre

WHEN:

Saturday, March 16 @ 7:30 p.m. Free.

5

WHAT:

Zoo Town Hip Hop Alliance 3

WHERE:

The Palace

WHEN:

Sunday, March 17 @ 9 p.m. \$2/\$7 18+

The Booze Brothers and Sippin Sisters have a few tips to help celebrate **St. Patty's Day!**

Eat your Corned beef (or any kind of food) before you drink

The holiday lasts all weekend, pace yourself! (One drink an hour)

DESIGNATE A DRIVER OR USE ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

Walk, ride a bike, or ride U-Dash (it's called the "Drunk Bus" for a reason)

Alternate alcoholic drinks with water, prevent a hangover!

Logos: The University of Montana, Curry Health Center, THE BOOZE BROTHERS, Sippin Sisters

ENVIRONMENT

Restoring Montana's forests

Soils specialist takes a 21st century approach to saving the environment

Riley Pavelich

Montana Kaimin

Riding a bike to Mark Vandermeer's office is hard work over the hefty incline of the Scott Street Bridge. Below the railroad tracks there is a small playground for kids, another left turn and you've found Bad Goat Products and Watershed Consulting.

Vandermeer's lot is a sprawling collection of offices, sheds, a wood mill, a sawmill, a native plant nursery, wood pallets, a barn, a blacksmith, a warehouse and a massive fruit dehydrator. Today Vandermeer has three crews out working on different improvement projects in the area.

Vandermeer is a founding partner of Watershed Consulting LLT, a restoration-minded co-op of specialists and foresters that perform ecological assessments. He's also the owner of Bad Goat Productions, which uses sustainable logging practices to improve overall forest health.

"Our very best projects are multi-year," Vandermeer said.

"Those are the ones we really like and are really successful."

Vandermeer, 51, is a jovial guy with a Santa Claus beard and a red nose. He graduated from the University of Montana in 1995 with a degree in environmental studies and did

"We look to see where the forest is going in the future."

**Mark Vandermeer,
Partner of Watershed
Consulting LLT**

post-graduate work in soil science. Vandermeer worked as a park ranger for the National Parks System before attending UM as a non-traditional student.

Demand is growing for sustainably harvested lumber, and Vandermeer has hundreds of projects to show for it. His crews contract out to private owners who want to maintain their land or to Superfund sites.



Thom Bridge/Montana Kaimin

Mark Vandermeer's Bad Goat Products sustainably harvests timber, and uses the wood to build custom projects for people.

"We look to see where the forest is going in the future," he said. "Simpler or more complex, more resilient or less resilient."

Vandermeer has worked on ecological restoration projects

all over western Montana — on the Upper Clark Fork River, the East Fork of the Bull River Stream and the Smelter Hill steep slope re-vegetation in Anaconda. Bad Goat fells and mills about 65,000 board feet per year, which is enough lumber to fill 18 log trucks.

Bob Stein is the landowner of the Bull River Stream restoration site and has worked with Vandermeer and his partners for a decade.

"When they started it was pretty barren all around the streambeds and now there are bushes and shrubs 15 feet high," Stein said. "There is a much greater amount of riparian vegetation and it's really diverse in terms of species."

Vandermeer has noticed a

general improvement in environmental practices and litigation in Montana since he moved to the Swan Valley in 1989 and now sees forest health improving.

"In the nation, Montana is pretty darn good," he said. "Even when you go to states with strong Forest Practices Acts, we're still doing better in terms of stewardship of land."

Vandermeer has his hands in projects at every point of the sustainable production cycle. He contracts with local artisans to provide wood for crafts and clears out unhealthy tree stands in the forest. He even admits to "renegade tree planting" in Missoula's urban forests.

"We just like trees," he said.

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MISSOULA

Strap on the lucky green Nikes

Eben Wragge-Keller
Montana Kaimin

Break out the green spandex, face paint and “Kiss Me I’m Irish” paraphernalia. The celebrations of St. Pat are upon us.

This Saturday, a sea of green will be filling the streets of downtown Missoula at 9 a.m., as the annual Run for the Luck of It St. Patty’s Day Race kicks off its biggest year yet.

The Celtic Dragon Pipe Band will be playing the traditional ear-piercing bagpipes for the celebration, while Sean Kelly’s will provide post-race food and free Highlander beer for every participant over 21. It’s a celebration.

In the four years that Run Wild Missoula has been organizing the race, the number of participants has grown exponentially. By Wednesday last week there were 660 people registered with four days left for signups. Last year the event topped out at 730 participants, prompting a post-race block party fueled by alcohol and adrenaline.

Race organizer and avid runner Jen von Sehlen has no doubt that they will exceed that number this year.

“I think it’s fun when races offer something different and out of the ordinary,” she said.



The starting line at last year’s Run for the Luck of It race.

Photo courtesy of Neil Chaput de Saintonge

“It’s just kind of a crazy morning, people get really into it — people are encouraged to dress up and have fun with it,” von Sehlen said. “We reward those folks who get into it with a costume contest.”

Run Wild Missoula, is a local non-profit which puts on more than a dozen races each year, the

most notable and grueling the Missoula Marathon. The group, founded in 1986, was originally known as the Missoula Road and Track Club but in 2007, with the introduction of a new mara-

“It’s just kind of a crazy morning, people get really into it.”

**Jen von Sehlen,
Race Organizer**

thon, it changed its name to Run Wild Missoula. The club has grown dramatically, and these days puts on over a dozen races each year including the mara-

But the group organizes as many exciting races as it does exhausting ones, keeping loyal membership and the communi-

ty involved.

Participants Jamie and John Ault are excited to be involved in this year’s event, and have already planned out their costumes — Jamie will be donning a green wig, green shirt and a green sparkly skirt with green argyle socks. The two agree that the race’s length, participation, and costume contest separate this race from the others

“With the marathon where you’re running 26 miles or 13 miles — yeah it’s grueling. And its competitive,” John said. “When you finish it it’s fun, but not while you’re doing it. But Run for the Luck of It is fun.”

“This is only three miles, so I know I’m not gonna win the race,” Jamie said. “I’m probably not gonna come in last either but I’m still out there because there’s so many people. There’s so much to watch, and then the community is out there cheering

you on. It’s fun, it goes by fast.”

Despite the race’s low-key and playful atmosphere, there is still a competitive nature about it. Green costumes and silly headwear aside, the participants are still organized in the usual race fashion.

“All the elite runners up front, and then as you go back you’ve basically got all the ones who know where they’re gonna place and their time, all the way to the stroller moms in the back,” John said.

St. Patrick’s Day has changed dramatically over the last 300 years, evolving from celebrating the arrival of Christianity in Ireland to celebrating green vomit and hangovers on Monday. But celebrating liver damage isn’t the only way to partake in the festivities, and Run Wild Missoula knows how to add that healthy twist.

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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 THURSDAY’S PUZZLE

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

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9	8	3		7				
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3			7					
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3/15/13

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WILL CHERRY
From page 11

He's seventh on the University of Montana's all-time scoring list with 1,443 points. His 223 career steals make him the best in UM history.

He's not impressed though. He still has unfinished business.

"I can care less about individual awards," he said. "When you try to compare that to winning a championship and going to the NCAA Tournament, it's not even a comparison. You can't match the two up. Those individual awards come with the success you have as a team."

This year, through all the adversity he has faced, Cher-

ry's drive to win this season is unlike previous years. He is not only trying to prove he's a winner, but his team is as well.

"It's even more so," Cherry said fervently, two days before Montana's BSC semi-finals game. "I feel like we're not getting a lot of the respect we deserve here. A lot of people think Weber State is going to come in and win the whole thing. That's just like someone coming into your house and taking food off your table right in front of you and your mother.

"That's how fired up I am about this weekend."

The fracture line in his foot is still there. He's not about to forget the pain in his foot can

manifest again, like a disease. He knows he's not Superman, not invincible. That won't stop Cherry from rising up or change his win-at-all-costs mentality.

"Nothing is realistic," said Cherry, who hopes to play in the NBA next season. "I don't think on realistic terms, I'm always thinking above and beyond. When you think realistically, you limit yourself to options and you limit your potential."

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Avenging Bertha - Foresters plant a forest in the Law School



Forestry students avenge last week's kidnapping of their prized taxidermied moose, Bertha, by conjuring up a few pranks of their own against the Law School. Watch Forestry turn the Law School lobby into a forest and put out a "wildfire."

Check it out at www.montanakaimin.com/