The College Dropout

Spring-breaking the environment
page 6

Missoula offers little to homeless addicts
page 7

Overwatch and learn
page 8

Cover Story Page 4
LIKE SOME RABBIT

BAD SPOTS?

REDOUBTABLE

Well-kept sinewy insect

Like the White "Get ___ of Bridal bio word"

Wise one

Lean and overhead?

Tolkien Scout’s quest

Catch Centers of dog

Lots and lots DOWN

MATURE

Start of a Smoking gun

Getting on C E L L

Run off to wed Colt

Something to

Danson and Koppel

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THE WEEKLY CROSSWORD

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS
1 Brief quarrel
5 Stadium section
9 Ice cream flavor
14 Start of a conclusion
15 Bad spots?
16 Metamorphosed insect
17 Futility
19 Pretense
20 Charged item
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24 Knitted coverlet
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28 Role player
30 Chronicles
33 Trough diners
36 Senate stretch
38 Something to shut
39 Attitude
41 Run
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44 Centers of activity
46 Connective tissue
47 Wavy-lined, in botany
49 Run off to wed
51 Cloisonne coating
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57 U2 album, "Rattle and ___"
59 "The Four Seasons" composer
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64 Maturity
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67 Exhausted, with "in"
68 Doing nothing
69 Band of eight
70 Wraps up
71 Danson and Koppel

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Answers to Last Week’s Crossword:

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Difficulty: Medium

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week’s Sudoku:

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OPINION

THIS DAY
IN HISTORY

Each week the Kaimin will take a look back in time to see what we were reporting about in the old days.

1999 "Rebel with a Cause" Anthony Pollner was sick and tired of UM’s lack of parking spaces, so he started parking wherever he wanted — and in two years, accrued over $1000 in parking fines. A yearly parking permit cost $105.

ON THE COVER

Cover design by Zoie Koosta / @zoiekoosta

Cover story continues on page 4.

The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana.

For comments, corrections or letters to the editor, contact editor@montanakaimin.com or call (406) 243-4310.

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Devony Smith had always been anxious, but college was making everything worse.

Smith had been treating her severe anxiety and bouts of depression with medication since she was 17, but her father’s death in the fall of 2013 combined with the piling pressures of her first year at Montana State University were wearing on her mental health.

Not only was Smith skipping classes and missing assignments, she nearly refused to leave her dorm without a friend. And despite pressure from MSU staff and faculty, there was no chance Smith could decide on a major as a freshman.

After all, Smith wondered, what degree could possibly be worth four whole years of energy?

But Smith had always envisioned herself graduating college and pursuing her career passionately, and her family had always expected her to actually finish school, so she pushed on to her sophomore year.

After failing, yet again, to discover her dream job in 2014, Smith eventually gave up and settled for her Plan B degree: elementary education.

But still, Smith was barely passing her classes, she even withdrew from several classes. She lied to her mother about the situation and lived in a constant panic over the seemingly irreversible state of her education.

“I felt dropping out wasn’t an option because of how my family would react, even though no part of me wanted to continue school in any way,” Smith said, adding that she eventually had a panic attack so severe, she was hospitalized. “I decided in the waiting room that as soon as I was calm enough to articulate my feelings, I would tell my mom it was time to take an indefinite break.”

Smith said once she explained the gravity of her endeavors with school, her mother was understanding. Not pleased, Smith said, “but complicit.” So Smith dropped out of college in the fall of 2015, and the unbearable weight lifted.

While many students consider the stresses and pressures of college to be “worth it” — the degree, the dream job, the money-making career — others, like Smith, struggle with depression and anxiety and have difficulty coping with the demands of higher education. For some, it is better to opt out and live free of credits, papers and tests.

Smith battled to balance depression with the demands of school at MSU, but the issue is common to UM students as well.

More than 21 percent of University of Montana students reported having been diagnosed with or treated for anxiety in the last year, while another 18 percent reported having been treated for depression, according to the American College Health Association’s Spring 2016 National College Health Assessment of UM.

In the same study, almost 47 percent of UM students said they found academics traumatic or very difficult to handle, while 48 percent said they had felt a greater than average amount of stress within the previous year. About 13 percent of UM students reported having felt tremendous stress regularly within the last 12 months.

For Smith, who now teaches pre-
school, the simple pleasure of a healthy mind was enough to steer clear of college indefinitely, although she said she had originally intended to return within a few years.

Without the stresses of school exacerbating her anxiety and depression, Smith said she has since become a happier, more productive person.

“I’ve been able to foster close relationships much more easily and spend my free time doing things that make me happy,” Smith said. “If you’re undecided or unhappy in your major, then I see no reason why taking some time off isn’t a reasonable decision.”

Former student Greighsen Serrano chose to drop out of UM in the fall of 2016 for similar reasons, after three years of pursuing a degree in history education. Although Serrano has never been diagnosed with anxiety, she said she struggles with extreme stress, and most of her time in college was spent in a full-on panic.

Serrano said she started hating college during the second semester of her freshman year, but she had been “programmed” to think college was the only viable option. After living in a state of unbearable stress for years, Serrano began seeing a therapist, who told Serrano her stress levels were unhealthy before suggesting a break.

Serrano quit school and moved to Texas, where her husband is stationed at a U.S. Air Force base.

“I’m already tremendously happier just because I don’t have the stress of college following me around anymore,” Serrano said. “Understanding your mental health is just as important as physical health. Know there is a line and it’s OK to admit you need a break.”

Riley Lemm’s anti-college revelation came during a writing class in 2014, two years into his education at UM. His class was made up of 20-year-old students who Lemm said had “real” experiences to share. All Lemm had done was move straight from high school to college, without any clear plan or idea of what he wanted from the experience.

Lemm said he felt depressed about his lack of decisiveness during his time in college, and those two years felt numb. Lemm had an aching desire to leave. He wanted to learn and experience things outside of Montana, and this yearning hit him all at once in this writing class.

“Who the fuck is going to care about what I write?” Lemm remembered thinking. “I haven’t seen or experienced anything.”

So Lemm said he stopped wasting his time and money, and left.

Since then, he has become a self-proclaimed “ski bum.” He lived out of a van in Colorado, climbed mountains in Utah, worked summers in Alaska and lived in Costa Rica. He lives cheap, works hard and fixes skis at night in the winter.

Lemm said he plans to return to college when he can’t move any further forward without a degree. But that day, Lemm said, may never come. College isn’t the “be all end all of learning” to Lemm. In fact, he said he’s learned more while traveling than he did throughout his entire education.

“Dropping out doesn’t mean I stopped learning,” Lemm said. “It just means I’m learning things I find far more valuable and relevant than what a directionless college education would’ve given me.”
Spring break hangover: How your vacation contributed to climate change

Every year, Montana students flock to warmer areas to celebrate being halfway through the semester. This year was no different. We trade snowboots for Chacos to explore the canyons of southern Utah, and coffee on the way to class becomes margaritas on the beach.

This is all fun and good, except for the huge impact traveling leaves on the environment, especially during mass travel times like spring break.

First, there’s a literal trash buildup. Beaches across the country deal with weeks of cleanup after college students leave. Red Solo Cups, condoms, beer bottles and who knows what else line the beaches every year. While local volunteers work to clean up most of the trash, some of it inevitably ends up in the ocean.

We've all seen photos of birds with plastic six-pack rings around their necks, or dead marine life with stomachs full of trash. In addition, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, this trash can suffocate coral reefs, home to all sorts of species. Trash in the ocean comes back to hurt humans, too — fish often eat plastic, and if we eat that fish, we ingest the same toxins.

Beach spring breakers aren't the only polluters. Montana students love traveling to Utah for its national parks, and it often seems as if all of Missoula went there together.

But this exploration can have its own environmental issues. Trail degradation is a growing problem. Zion National Park is considering limiting entrances due to the sheer number of visitors and the effects they are having on its facilities and trails, the Salt Lake Tribune reported in fall 2016. The more crowded these paths get, the more they wear down.

Southern Utah is full of informational signs saying, “Don’t bust the crust,” referring to cryptobiotic soil. It might look like dried up mud with some black stuff on it, but it’s actually a combination of cyanobacteria, lichens and mosses that takes years to grow. This cryptobiotic soil acts like a coat for the soil underneath — it protects it from erosion and helps provide nutrients. This, in turn, helps nearby plants and animals. If hikers step on this soil, it can take anywhere from 20 to 250 years to grow back, according to the National Park Service.

Then there’s the environmental impact of traveling itself.

Driving is significantly better for the planet, but it too has its consequences. It’s about 750 miles from Missoula to Moab, Utah. According to the EPA, the average vehicle emits just under a pound of CO2 per mile. This adds up quickly. But that’s per vehicle, not per person, so the impact is much smaller than that of flying.

Don’t let guilt ruin memories of spring break, though. We all wanted to get out of Missoula for the week, and that’s fair. Fortunately and unfortunately, we affect the climate every day. Feel bad about flying to the beach? Take the bus to work and school instead of driving. Realizing that you stomped all over cryptobiotic soil? Help Missoula’s local trail conservation groups. We all add to climate change, but we can also all contribute to sustainability efforts.

"Fortunately and unfortunately, we affect the climate every day.”

By Kaimin Staff
editor@montanakaimin.com

Delaney Cummins
Gaps in services leave Missoula’s homeless population in limbo

By Matt Neuman
matt.neuman@umontana.edu

Keith Roberson and his dog, Seneca, sleep under a tarp all winter long. They have five sleeping bags and each other for warmth. They’ve been together for nine years, two of which have been spent on the streets of Missoula.

Roberson can’t get into the Poverello homeless shelter with Seneca. He also can’t get in with booze.

Roberson, 58, is a chronic alcoholic. If he stops drinking, his body will go into shock, and he could die.

The Poverello is what homeless advocates call a dry shelter; it has a zero-tolerance policy on alcohol. For people like Roberson, that leaves no options better than jail.

In 2012, Mayor John Engen introduced Reaching Home, a 10-year plan to end homelessness in Missoula. The plan outlined key issues affecting the homeless and those on the brink of homelessness, along with presenting suggestions for solutions.

Now five years into the endeavor, Reaching Home coordinator Theresa Williams said the plan has shown no measurable effect on the homeless population.

While the plan did not explicitly call for a so-called wet shelter, it did put forth the Housing First method. The method, first promoted during the early 1990s in New York, promotes the idea that housing should be provided, no matter one’s conditions or addictions, as the most basic first step to recovering from a crisis.

A 2009 study by the University of Washington found that moving chronic alcoholics into permanent supportive housing led to a 33 percent drop in alcohol use.

Williams could not confirm that the city had an actual strategy to make use of the Housing First model outlined in its own 10-year plan.

Travis Mateer, a former Homeless Outreach Team member at the Poverello, said Missoula will not be able to provide effective help for the homeless population until the city addresses its serious inability to deal with substance abuse and mental illness.

“Mayor Engen recently got some treatment for his alcoholism, but he probably has some pretty good insurance,” Mateer said. “People on the streets don’t. So because we don’t have treatment options that are accessible to these people, the jail and ER are the de facto places where they end up bottlenecks.”

Mateer is a strong advocate of a subsidized 24-hour drop-in center, a place for active users of alcohol or drugs to get help when they need it. There are small windows of opportunity, he said, when people who are struggling with addictions are willing to accept help. If the city does not have services to capitalize on those opportunities, it will be a compounding problem.

According to the National Institute of Health, 10 percent of Americans are suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. That would equate to over 100,000 Montanans, while the total number of inpatient addiction-treatment facility beds in the state is only about 105, Mateer said.

The director of the Poverello Center, Amy Thompson, said that people who are not able to get into the shelter are usually dealing with serious mental health issues or substance abuse issues.

“They come to us saying they want to get sober, and we can’t offer them services to get somewhere,” Thompson said. “Then, there’s really no hope for them.”

Doing business as usual, providing temporary solutions to permanent problems, is expensive.

“We’re not focused enough on prevention as a society,” said Noah Sohl, another outreach team member at the Poverello. “Right now, we’re just slapping people on the wrist and expecting they’re just going to figure out how to solve their own issues.”

In 2009, St. Patrick Hospital said it provided over $5 million in charity care to people identified as homeless. That number was estimated to have reached $4 million in 2012.

The city of Billings approximated the cost of emergency services, law enforcement, medical care and temporary shelter to be between $105,000 and $126,000 per individual considered chronically homeless in its 2008 plan to end homelessness.

The cost of providing permanent housing with supportive services was estimated to be between $25,000 and $35,000 a year per person by the city of Boise, Idaho.

“If you don’t want to hear the bleeding-heart liberal argument for why we should help people, how about the fiscally conservative argument where we can really save some money?” Travis Mateer said. “If the public understood what we were spending on ineffective responses to chronic homelessness, maybe there would be some more support to close some of these gaps.”

Theresa Williams said the Reaching Home effort is focused on organizing resources more cohesively and creating a system of prioritizing people based on their level of need.

The two systems work together to help people in the most dire situations first and provide them with care and resources in the most efficient way possible.

“Right now, Missoula has scattered, overlapping resources for those in need, and it can be hard for people in a housing crisis to navigate,” she said. “One of the most achievable goals we have is creating a singular front door for all these services.”

In conjunction with the centralized point of access, Williams said she hopes to begin a by-name list, which ranks clients depending on the details of their situation so that resources can be better allocated as they become available.

“Pretty much all of the services in Missoula operate on a first-come, first-served basis,” she said.
Not just another first-person shooter

“Overwatch,” a shooter game set in a war-torn future, has taken the gaming world by storm and UM gamers are no exception.

“It’s one of the first shooters in a long time that I thoroughly enjoy,” said member of the University’s Gaming Den group, Cale Patenaude. “It’s such a unique game. Blizzard really thought through it.”

The Gaming Den has a competitive “Overwatch” team that started in early March.

In the game, you play in a team of six, attempting to defeat another team of six. The characters are nearly as diverse as the millions of players; you can play as Chinese climate change scientist Mei, Zenyatta the robotic monk, Symmetra the autistic Indian architect, Lucio the Brazilian DJ or Zarya the Russian soldier and weightlifter, to name a few of the 24 playable characters.

Gaming Den group member Kate Weis said that she likes how the characters aren’t overdeveloped to the point of being boring, but developed enough that they’re interesting and you want to know more. Several characters have animated shorts by Blizzard about their backstories, and the game’s introduction explains how and why these heroes have banded together to try to save the war-torn world they live in.

“It’s one of the first shooters in a long time that I thoroughly enjoy.”

-Cale Patenaude

No money for madness: Why the NCAA restricts gambling for fantasy sports

By Zac Allen
zachary3.allen@umontana.edu

Every March, madness strikes for college basketball fans across the country. Upsets, Cinderella stories and surprises happen almost every round year after year.

Fans participate in the madness by being a part of bracket games. This year more than 40 million people created a bracket. For many, a more perfect bracket can offer a big payout in a pay-to-play group.

But college athletes are excluded from these games under the NCAA’s regulations on sports wagering.

The NCAA rule book prohibits all forms of wagering on sports, college or otherwise. According to its website, allowing student athletes to bet on sports “has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests.”

Punishments for violating these rules can result in anything from suspensions to losing eligibility as an NCAA student athlete, it all depends on the severity of the situation.

University of Montana senior associate athletic director Jean Gee said the rule is a cornerstone prohibition for the NCAA.

“It really was implemented to keep the sports as pure as possible,” Gee said.

Although it is considered an important rule, Gee said it is difficult to police and monitor all student athletes all the time.

“It is through education to hopefully prevent it from happening,” Gee said.

Even players not associated with the sport are not allowed to gamble. For instance, softball players cannot play fantasy football for money.

Men’s basketball player Bobby Moorehead said he understands why basketball players are not allowed to gamble on basketball tournaments, but thinks members of other sports should be allowed.

“We should be able to bet on fantasy football,” he said.

Gee said one of the fears is what gambling on brackets can possibly lead to, behaviors that include wagering on and throwing games to make money.

“I don’t know that the wagering itself is the real evil, it’s what it could lead to,” Gee said.

Prior to playing in the NCAA tournament, teams watch a video that includes past players who became involved in throwing games for money. Gee said this is a way to show the dangers of becoming involved in gambling on basketball games.

“Once you start to say, ‘We’ll allow it in this situation, but not in this situation,’ you’re almost starting to say it’s okay,” Gee said.

Despite the restrictions, Moorehead still enjoys filling out a bracket.

“It’s just about the fun,” Moorehead said. “I don’t care to put money on it. I’ve always just had a blast trying to pick upsets and make a crazy bracket with wild guesses.”