11-15-2017

Montana Kaimin, November 15, 2017

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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THE HOUSE THAT SPONGES BUILT

WHY UM OWNS A MANSION (AND PLENTY OF OTHER PROPERTY, TOO)

NEWS Students scammed with fake checks

ARTS Taylor Swift gets petty

SPORTS Griz out for revenge at Brawl of the Wild
Kept the faith
Work group
Greet the day
Egg cells
Clothing fuzz
Surfer’s need
Piece of
MALDEMER
Gestation
Leave port
Corn cake
Continental
McCarthy’s port
Gridiron play
Bygone
News source
Batter’s wear
Breathing
Type of finish
Sink pipe
Type of politics
A MUSE
ON THE COVER
PHOTO REED KLAAS

The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS
1 Keep the faith
6 Leave port
10 “Now, ____ this!”
14 Rudimentary seed
15 Untainted
16 Christmas season
17 Forgo
18 Turkey neighbor
19 Tarp trouble
20 Turn on the charm
22 Tuesday before Ash Wednesday
24 Back talk
26 Notary’s tool
28 Drawing support
29 Historic time
30 Type of politics
32 Mottled horse
34 Pep up
38 Self-denier
41 Begun, as a hobby
42 Ships’ hazard
44 Bird of prey
45 Soften, in a way
48 Feel bad about
49 Go bad
52 News source
53 Gridiron play
54 Batter’s wear
56 Eastern exercise
58 Fix up
59 Parade spoiler
61 Kind of society
64 Roulette bet
65 Full of excitement
66 Gestation locations
67 Say it ain’t so
68 Corn cake

DOWN
1 “____ do you do?”
2 Egg cells
3 Equestrian event
4 Keeler’s crew
5 Legal paper
6 McCarthy’s portrayal on SNL
7 Golden
8 One of the Gershwin
9 Microscope part
10 Flowering shrub
11 Continental coins
12 Breathing
13 Force back
14 Can. neighbor
15 Listen, old-style
16 Floral leaf
17 Greet the day
18 Clothing fuzz
19 Surfer’s need
20 Road hazard
21 Vacation locale, with “the”
22 Sworn statement
23 Deep-seated
24 Z’s, in code
25 Fencing swords
26 Arched particle
27 Work group
28 It may be limited
29 Electric frog
30 Piece of evidence?
31 Pet ____
32 Bygone
33 Type of finish
34 Sink pipe
35 Some fish bait
36 Long, long
37 Mine yield
38 Crater edge

Answers to Last Week’s Crossword:

SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:
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:

HELP WANTED

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KAIMIN EDITORIAL

Surviving a Thanksgiving away from your family

There’s nothing quite like Thanksgiving. The upcoming short reprieve from academia offers students a chance to kick off their shoes and forget about their C-average. Overworked and hungover freshman get to experience the horror of driving through Montana’s deathly mountain passes in pursuit of some turkey. Similarly overworked and hungover seniors rejoice at the prospect of sleeping on a mattress with a box spring and a bed frame for a few days.

Thanksgiving brings out the best in everyone. It’s the time of year when your drunk uncles get together and talk about Hannity until their wives have to drive them home. It’s when your young cousins get to scream and cry with reckless abandon. But what about those who want to avoid their extended family at all costs, at least until Christmas?

Dear reader, you’re in luck. The Kaimin is taking a brief reprieve from its regularly scheduled grievances to offer you the definitive guide for getting the most out of your Thanksgiving break if you aren’t planning on going home for the holidays.

Everyone knows the chief ingredient of a successful Thanksgiving is the food, but most stores are liable to run out of the essentials — turkey, in particular — in the days leading up to the feast. More awful still, cooking is hard, especially when you’ve been living off a steady diet of Food Zoo chicken strips and Hot Pockets.

That’s why, rather than attempting to purchase the ingredients for a perfect meal, you should take the easy way out and buy them ready-made. Arby’s, for example, is currently offering deep fried turkey as a new menu option. KFC and Popeye’s will hook you up with mashed potatoes and gravy. Subway has cranberry mustard, which, honestly, you deserve if you think cranberry sauce is acceptable for human consumption. Purchase all of these a day in advance and keep them in your fridge for best results.

Your Thanksgiving will be totally worthless if you aren’t surrounded by people to argue with. Make sure to invite a politically diverse smattering of guests, otherwise you won’t have anyone to yell at about the imperialistic roots of the holiday. With the right mix of Libertarians and young Democrats, the conversation should get heated enough to warrant a flipped board game off a coffee table. Ideally this will happen after pumpkin pie has been served.

You will also need to make sure you have a cell phone and a means of charging it at all times. It is your anchor, the only thing that can extract you from an unwanted conversation or distract you from all the people making a huge mess in your living room. Most importantly, it allows you to play music or a playlist of YouTube videos when everybody gets too drunk to talk.

This Thanksgiving, if you can’t go home, spend some time with people you love, and be thankful you won’t have to talk about your future for a few more weeks. There’s always Christmas.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD? 
Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COMIC

RENÉ SANCHEZ
rene.sanchez@umontana.edu / @ReneSanchez440
The Food Zoo: Yelped

It has been three full years since I was a freshman shoveling fried poultry into my mouth at the Food Zoo’s most beloved eating event: chicken strip night. As an exercise in nostalgia, I decided to head back to my old stomping grounds and see how UM Dining’s finest establishment stacks up against the days of yore.

The first thing that blows about eating at the Food Zoo as a senior without a meal plan is it costs $11. While I guess that’s comparable to other all-you-can-eat restaurants, it still felt excessive considering all I wanted were some Lucky Charms and warm cookies. However, once I passed the cashier and made my way onto the bustling floor of the Zoo, the feelings of possibility and anticipation came rushing back to me. I was reminded of the many dinners I spent watching my friend Colin eat plain spinach while my other friends made equally questionably food choices.

For my lunchtime meal, I sampled all three lines: vegetarian, gluten free and the main event. I had the bison coconut curry, some pasta stuff and tacos. The food was good — arguably better than when I was a freshman — but what really upped the Food Zoo’s game was the expanded variety of amenities I had not experienced in my time there. The Food Zoo now has like 600 hot sauces, a bunch of spices and salts to add, including lemon pepper. Good work, Food Zoo. Perhaps the classiest addition is a drink machine that pours out pure, sweet (and ostensibly nutritious) Vitamin Water.

The one issue I encountered was the sandwich section, where, evidently, in order to make a panini you have to endure the really involved process of wrapping your sandwich in paper and then putting it in the panini press. I did not receive that memo until after sipping a turkey on sourdough straight into the hot press, realizing that it was sticking and burning and then trying to get it all out and run away without being yelled at for ignoring the clearly posted signage. Whoops!

The ambiance of the Food Zoo has always been top-notch, what with the multiple black-and-white photos of farmland and the background noise of 80 freshmen judging you for having six plates. Today was no different, and as my friend Sadie and I sat at our little table and gossiped freely, I asked her what her favorite thing about the Food Zoo is. She didn’t think twice before answering. “It’s consistent, and I like that.”

Me too, Sadie. Good work, Food Zoo. If this were Yelp, I would leave a 4-star review and an enticing picture of those oven-fresh chocolate chip cookies.

Got a queery? Send any questions you have to calreynolds.queeries@gmail.com. Ask me what you’ve been afraid to ask or what you’ve always wanted to know. Your name and any other personal information will not be published.

CAL REYNOLDS

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KAIMIN COLUMN

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CAL REYNOLDS

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The program prioritization committee spent most of last week ranking academic programs and designating some for cuts, but a meeting on Wednesday revealed disagreement within the group about transparency and future steps.

The Academic Program and Administrative Services Prioritization committee could not agree on Wednesday, Nov. 8, how to follow the next part of its charge: making recommendations for how to grow, modify, or cut each academic and administrative program it reviewed.

Scott Whittenburg, vice president of research and creative scholarship, said he is concerned the task force does not know the evaluated programs intimately enough to assess them.

“We are not in any better position to make recommendations on any of the units than the deans and sector heads,” Whittenburg said.

Student Regent and committee member Chase Greenfield said he felt the committee was the most apt group on campus to make specific recommendations on how to modify individual programs, but professor and faculty union president Paul Haber, Whittenburg and professor Steve Schwarze disagreed.

“How deep are we going to go?” Haber said during the meeting. “... Are you going to dinker around a little bit or are you going to recommend moratorium and retrenchment? On what basis? We’re launching into a recommendation phase thoughtlessly. And I’ll have no part of it.”

After the meeting, Haber said he is concerned about the integrity of the evaluation and recommendation process moving forward. He said he feels the type of data collected and the amount of time given did not lend itself to thoughtful decision making.

“There are too many limitations of methodology to warrant making meaningful recommendations on 412 programs,” Haber said. “If our recommendations are based on flawed analysis, I won’t take any part in that.”

The committee did not make any formal decisions for how they will move forward in the evaluation process.

After the ranking process ended, the committee debated how transparent it needs to be in releasing information on how the committee ranked programs, including programs’ self-evaluations, reviewer comments and scores, and the committee’s vote tallies on how to rank each program.

Claudine Cellier, communications director for the committee and member of the provost’s office, said the information associated with APASP should be limited to UM – only available to people with University login credentials.

UM’s lawyer, Lucy France, said the committee needed to make its decision based on what “is best for your process.”

Public information requests could be made, she said, which would include a lengthy review process before releasing them.

“There’s no legal requirement that it has to be instantaneously available,” France said.

Elizabeth Putnam, chair of the department of biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences, said many academic programs are afraid making the rankings and scores available beyond the campus community could hurt their public images. In particular, academic programs of high prestige should be considered because they attract students, she said.

By limiting access to people directly related to UM, the committee could limit the spread of information, Putnam said.

Paul Haber said the committee should take the initiative to be transparent through making the evaluations “100 percent public.” Haber added releasing all associated information was likely necessary to obey the law.

“It’s a public institution. I think it’s the law actually. That’s called transparency,” Haber said.

The Missoulian published a story on Nov. 9 listing occasions when the University has limited the availability of public information.

“The project to set priorities at the University of Montana highlights a gap between UM President Sheila Stearns’ stated commitment to transparency and the actual availability of information to the public,” wrote Keila Szpaller, the Missoulian’s UM beat reporter.

Whittenburg said he is concerned about the privacy of individuals who might be named in the review comments. Removing committee members’ names from the review documents could absolve them from unwanted liability, Whittenburg said.

The committee decided to publish program evaluations on Box, a file sharing site the committee has used to stay organized, including the reviewer comments, scores and final ranking votes, with names redacted. Program self-reports and other documents have been posted on according to the APASP website.
The University of Montana will offer the state's first on-campus, gender-inclusive housing option starting in fall of 2018.

Miller Hall was completed and dedicated to J. Earl “Burly” Miller, dean of men, in 1965. It underwent renovations that remixed its interior and exterior in 1996. Sandy Curtis, the university’s director of residence life, said 2018 will bring even more changes to Miller Hall – a co-ed fourth floor and a gender-inclusive wing on the first floor.

Miller Hall’s wings are currently divided by gender; the north wing houses men, the south wing, women. In fall of 2018, Miller Hall’s fourth floor will have alternating male and female rooms in a checkerboard pattern. Bathrooms will remain male and female. The south wing of Miller’s first floor will offer gender-inclusive rooms and bathrooms. Curtis said that option is for people who want to live together, regardless of gender identification or expression.

“The bathroom on that particular wing is gender-inclusive,” Curtis said. “so you could have a variety of different genders in that bathroom at any given time.”

Curtis said changes stemmed from the University seeing more students transitioning genders or would like to live with people of similar values without limiting their selection to one gender.

Plans for gender-inclusive housing options resulted from talks with the Associated Students of the University of Montana and UM discussion group Queer Kitchen Table, Curtis said. Queer Kitchen Table member Elliot Hobaugh, a 19-year-old sophomore at UM, said he was the one who suggested the changes. Hobaugh said part of the challenge was finding the right location for his plans and overcoming the fear of potential harassment and targeting as a result.

There are currently 265 colleges and universities in the United States that offer gender-inclusive housing, according to CampusPride.org, a volunteer-based non-profit organization that works to create safe environments for LGBTQ students on campuses across the country. UM is not currently listed, as it just went live with its new program.

“I think that it is a good starting point, and just showing that we would love to be the Resident Assistant of the first floor.

“I also believe that the floor should have a transgender RA so that residents can feel safe talking to their RA about issues they are having on campus,” Hobaugh said.

For more information, Residence Life’s Living Learning Communities posted a FAQs on their website.

Many University of Montana students have received a scam email or two and ignored it. But lately some students have taken the bait, leaving tellers at the Missoula Federal Credit Union on edge.

Mary Wozniak, a teller at the University Center branch, said she has seen an influx of students attempting to cash fake checks since the beginning of the semester. The checks can look legitimate, printed with names of real businesses and routing numbers. But they are fraudulent.

“Use your head,” Wozniak said. “If it looks too good to be true, it is.”

The checks are often written for a few thousand dollars and noted as paychecks. However, students who attempt to cash these checks have never actually met the “employer” in person, nor done any work.

Here’s how the scam works:

1. The scammer sends a student an email advertising a job opportunity.
2. The student is told they will be paid in advance for their work.
3. Baited student sends the scammer their name and address.
4. Once the student receives the check, they are instructed to cash it immediately.

After this, the scammer asks the student for part of the money back, instructing the student to send a money order, hopefully before the bank has time to process the fraudulent check.

Now the student, who thinks they’ve made a profit, has paid the scammer with their own money, and will also be responsible for any charges for cashing a fraudulent check.

Peter Walther, another teller at MFCU, has also seen a number of bad checks come through the bank. He said these scammers are professionals and make a living this way. They know how to manipulate students into playing along with the scheme.

“The people who are most vulnerable are poor students and the elderly,” Walther said.

Marty Ludemann, UM police chief, said the scammers are careful to leave out personal information, and are almost impossible to track. It’s hard to know where they originate—emails could be coming from overseas or just a state away.

Ludemann said the scheme’s rushed timeline is the biggest red flag. Scammers want a money order back from the student after the check has been cashed but before the bank discovers it to be fraudulent.

Tellers are trained to spot fake checks, but they can’t always catch the scam before it’s complete.

Ludemann said the best action a student can take is to ignore the bait, whether it comes in an email, phone call or text message. He said UMPD is happy to answer questions and inspect any fishy material.
MENTAL HEALTH

Appointments at Curry Health Center Counseling harder to come by

MELISSA LOVERIDGE
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Appointments are in such high demand that Curry Health Center Counseling can’t schedule students fast enough.

“Our numbers are up, even though enrollment is down,” said Cathy Joy, a counselor and the assistant director of Curry Health Center Counseling. “It’s a problem with counseling across the nation.”

Curry counseling has nine full-time staff, four graduate students training two days a week, a part-time counselor who is accruing hours for her accreditation, and one counselor who came out of retirement to work two days a week. Even with 14 staff members, its appointment spots fill up weeks in advance. One in four people between 18 and 24 years old has a diagnosable mental illness (and 40 percent of those people are not seeking help), and a few weeks can feel like a long time to wait to address a health concern.

Joy said she hopes the stigma against mental illness has been decreasing and says that may be the reason for the higher volume of appointments.

Curry counseling does have an urgent care system in place for students with emergencies; Curry leaves five appointments empty each day so students can get same-day or next-day attention.

“Today, every slot was filled,” Joy said. She said that’s pretty normal, but when there are unused urgent care slots, there are only one or two.

Morgan Spoja, a 21-year-old music education major at UM, said getting her initial appointment at Curry was easy. It was when she tried to make the second appointment the problem arose.

“It was like a month later,” Spoja said. She said she’s not planning on returning to Curry.

According to the Center for Collegiate Mental Health 2016 annual report, quick access or urgent care counseling hours on campuses have gone up, but overall hours serving students have gone down since 2010. Patients averaged around .4 rapid access hours in 2010. In 2016, that number increased to .51 hours.

In 2010, the average patient used 6.18 regular scheduled appointment hours. That number has dropped to 5.77 in 2016. According to the CCMH, this could be because counseling centers are adjusting to have the ability to serve students who need immediate appointments.

NATURE

We speak for the trees at UM. They say they’re OK

ROOSIE COSTAIN
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Missoula’s 100-year-old urban forest is dying. With no age or species diversification and a lack of maintenance, the city is facing the replacement of over 16,000 overaged trees. In 2013, the city created the Urban Forest Master Management Plan to establish a framework for the removal and replacement of old trees across the city.

The University of Montana’s brick walkway to the Oval is lined with some of the most problematic trees, Norway maples. They were planted around the same time as other maples in the university district, around 100 years ago.

The maples around campus will need to be replaced, but it isn’t as big of a problem as the city’s need to remove entire tree-lined streets.

“We don’t expect a big die-off on campus,” said John Goodburn, chair of the arboretum committee. He said the difference comes down to maintenance. UM can keep up with basic tree needs, especially irrigation, unlike homeowners around the city who often don’t water regularly.

One maple has been removed outside of Knowles Hall, and another along the walkway is dead.

UM also keeps up with disease and insect control, as well as regular cleanup, said Adam Coe, an arborist and member of the grounds crew at UM.

“We’ve pretty much climbed every tree on campus and done a thorough pruning,” he said.

Tree problems aren’t unheard of at UM. In the 1960s, disease wiped out white elms across campus.

But unlike the mass plantings around Missoula, the University has great diversity in tree species and age, making campus more resilient. While certain trees around campus are similar in species and age, like the ponderosa pine along Memorial Row or the sugar maple inside the Oval, Goodburn isn’t worried because of the University’s regular tree upkeep.

As for the lines of Norway maple on campus, Goodburn said a replacement plan hasn’t been developed yet, but a tree-lined corridor will most likely remain.

Beyond providing setups for slackliners, free apples and a backrest while doing homework, trees provide quantifiable benefits, said Angela Wells, the Department of Natural Resource and Conservation stewardship program manager, who provides technical and financial assistance for forest planning and management.

As part of Montana Forest Products Week in October, price tags adorned many of the trees around campus, showing the quantifiable benefits provided by individual trees. A Douglas fir outside Main Hall provides over $16,000 in environmental benefits over 50 years, while a nearby western larch pays back over $25,000.

These benefits include water and air filtration, cooling from shade, and the “psychological bliss” that people get from being on a campus with so many trees, Wells said.

“People get a sense of how something as simple as a campus tree can have so many benefits,” Wells said.
THE HOUSE THAT SPONGES BUILT

WHY UM OWNS A MANSION (AND PLENTY OF OTHER PROPERTY, TOO)

STORY
MATT NEUMAN & MICHAEL SIEBERT

PHOTOS
REED KLASS

The Montana Island Lodge sits on Sourdough Island in the middle of Salmon Lake, about 50 miles northeast of Missoula. It was built by Bruce Vorhauer, the inventor of the contraceptive sponge, in 1984.
Bruce Vorhauer had lost everything. Once fabulously wealthy, the inventor of the Today contraceptive sponge was bankrupt and struggling to stay above water after a failed bid for Montana's Senate seat in 1989. Then, in June 1991, Vorhauer burned down his lavish yacht in an attempt to collect the insurance payout. His insurance provider quickly declared its intent to void his policy in court.

One month after a judge ruled the fire deliberately set, Vorhauer’s body was discovered inside his car at the boathouse of his Montana island mansion on Salmon Lake. A rubber hose funneled exhaust from the tailpipe into the car. Authorities ruled his death a suicide. Multiple news outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, the Seattle Times, the Missoulian and the Great Falls Tribune covered his financial turbulence as well as his death.

Vorhauer’s life ended in October 1992, but his story did not. His sprawling property, a luxurious 11-bedroom home located on Salmon Lake, an hour from Missoula, stayed vacant in the immediate aftermath of his death. In 1995, industrialist and namesake of the Washington-Grizzly Stadium, Dennis Washington, purchased Vorhauer’s home on auction. In 1995, he donated it to the University of Montana Foundation, which has been operating it as a resort and corporate retreat ever since.

This testament to Bruce Vorhauer’s soaring success and crushing failures now sits on the market for $2.5 million, about a third of its original price of $6.5 million in 2014. Until it sells, the University of Montana is paying for its maintenance and upkeep.

The mansion is the most expensive property among at least 27 residential properties owned by UM and the Foundation in Missoula County alone. The properties are worth over $14 million — about 10 percent of UM’s 2017 general fund. Some of them serve educational, or at least somewhat educational, purposes. Most do not.

With statewide budget struggles and fear of program cuts igniting sharp criticism of the school’s spending habits, it’s tough to look favorably upon ownership of a gaudy mansion described by its real estate agents as “the epitome of rustic opulence.” But as with most things, it’s not quite that simple. This is the story not just of Bruce Vorhauer, but of why a state university commands so much real estate, and what it would mean to sell it.

Bruce Vorhauer, 50 at the time of his death, got his start as the director of research and development for American Hospital Supply Corp. According to the Los Angeles Times, the idea to use a sponge filled with spermicide as a prophylactic came to Vorhauer from a professor he met. The sponge is inserted vaginally until it sits against the cervix. This physical barrier, combined with the spermicide solution inside the sponge, reduced the risk of pregnancy without the need for condoms or hormonal birth control. The modern sponge is considered effective for 24 hours after insertion.

In theory, the sponge was revolutionary. Vorhauer even had plans to distribute his product in poverty-stricken countries where effective birth control was
When his employer declined to finance the idea, he set out alone, spending years losing money trying to get the sponge on the market.

But in 1981, Vorhauer’s luck reversed, and he successfully sold 20 percent of the company to the tune of half a million dollars. By 1983, his stake in Vorhauer Laboratories Inc. was worth around $4 million. At that point, VLI had not even gone public.

When the sponge finally went to market that year, it achieved massive popularity. But almost as soon as the Today sponge became the preferred birth control of women nationwide, it fell out of their good graces. The sponge was falsely linked to increasing the user’s risk of toxic shock syndrome, a bacterial infection most commonly caused by leaving a tampon in for too long.

Though those claims were highly exaggerated (Planned Parenthood's website says it may only slightly increase the risk of TSS, which can be mitigated by removing it before 30 hours have elapsed), the damage was done. With his product struggling, matters were made even worse for Vorhauer in 1984, when his car crashed into a tree during an icy Montana winter, sending his fiancee Sara Wright into the eight-month coma that eventually killed her. Her family later sued him.

Outwardly, times were tough. VLI had yet to turn a profit by 1987, and that same year, the company lost its patent on the sponge for failing to pay a $150 renewal fee, according to the LA Times. But in spite of everything, Vorhauer was sitting comfortably. By then, he had built and was living in his island mansion. He lived lavishly, handing out donations to UM and other Missoula institutions like candy. He began investing in other companies, and soon turned his sights away from the contraception business and toward politics. By 1989, he ventured into politics, seeking the Republican Party nomination for Montana’s U.S. Senate seat.

While Vorhauer made for a generous donor in life, his island has not made for the jewel he may have envisioned. Revenues from renting the mansion barely kept pace with maintenance costs, and UM has struggled to sell it since putting it on the market for the first time in 2014.

The island lodge was a donation, but many properties around Missoula have been purchased by the University in a landgrab that might raise eyebrows given the current money crisis.

Since at least the early ’90s, property along Fifth and Sixth streets between Arthur and Maurice has been bought by UM. The houses generally serve as rentals,
occupied by students, families and student groups. But as campus members begin to feel the fiscal bind closing ever tighter around them, some are calling for a change to UM’s role as a landlord.

Perhaps the most outspoken proponent of offloading the properties is Roberta Evans, dean of the Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences. Each Tuesday morning, when the deans gather in the basement of Main Hall, Evans is quick to offer solutions to the various budget shortfalls discussed. While her colleagues discuss the budget in terms of millions of dollars, she sometimes counts the shortfall by the number of houses that could be sold.

Of course, selling off multiple houses to fundraise is easier said than done. Rosi Keller, vice president of administration and finance, said she thinks selling off the houses near campus would be foolish.

“That’s our property acquisition zone, as approved by the Board of Regents years ago, and little by little if any of those homes have been available for sale, the University has purchased them,” Keller said. “Our predecessors had the wisdom to see that we needed to buy land so if we were to grow and needed to add square footage, and that could be 50 or 60 years down the road, we’ve had the foresight to allow for that.”

However, Keller said the option of selling the properties isn’t totally off the table. She said using it as a one-time-only shot of cash or investing it in an endowment were possibilities, but said she would need to “analyze whether that’s really a good decision.”

Residential properties aren’t the only real estate Evans has campaigned for selling. Although it has become somewhat of a joke among her and her colleagues, “Sell the Bandy Ranch!” was long her rallying cry.

Mention of the 3,500-acre cattle ranch draws unreserved chuckles from every dean except Tom DeLuca, dean of the forestry school, which oversees the ranch near Ovando, in Powell County.

DeLuca admits that until recently, the educational potential of the Bandy Ranch hasn’t been fully embraced. The ranch was deeded by the estate of Ed Bandy to UM in 1991 for research purposes. But since then, the ranch manager’s salary was cut in half, and the ranch was leased out to ranchers looking for grazing land. DeLuca said until he was hired as dean in 2016, “administrative neglect” had left the future of Bandy unknown.

“I was a faculty member from 1994 to 2006, and used the Bandy extensively. But when I was interviewing for the dean position, they told me there was some talk of selling the Bandy Ranch,” DeLuca said. “I told them, ‘Whatever you do or whoever you hire, do not sell the Bandy Ranch.’”

DeLuca has made it a priority to capitalize on the offerings at Bandy Ranch, such as studying predator/livestock interactions and sustainable grazing.

Meanwhile, the lodge on Salmon Lake continues to be a burden with no clear purpose. The lodge’s longtime caretaker, Jane Fisher, retired in 2014 prompting the University to put the property up for sale.

UM spokesperson Paula Short told the Missoula Independent last year the lodge did not generate enough revenue to keep up with management and maintenance costs — a tragic reflection of the mansion’s original owner.

Like so many things in Vorhauer’s life, his bid for political office didn’t quite work out. When all was said and done, his efforts netted him 34 percent of the vote and around $300,000 in debt, according to the Los Angeles Times and the Missoulian.

Times were tough, and with foreclosure pending, Vorhauer attempted to sell his mansion. No one was buying. Nor were they interested in the Lark, the $1 million yacht he purchased from Dennis Washington in 1988. So, in a last-ditch effort to recoup some of his costs, Vorhauer drove to the Lark’s location in Seattle and lit it ablaze on June 2, 1991, the day before it was set for repossession, according to the Seattle Times. Vorhauer nearly received an insurance claim amounting to $1.3 million before investigators started poking holes in his story. Eventually, the court sided with his insurance provider.

Bruce Vorhauer died bankrupt and disgraced outside Montana Island Lodge sits on the market at a cool $2.5 million, after another million dollar price drop at the end of September.

Selling the lodge would absolve the University of maintenance obligations, but the shot of cash would hardly improve the budget shortfalls. Any money made from selling the property must be distributed evenly among UM and the other three affiliated campuses: UM-Western, Montana Tech and Helena College. The contract governing the property allows the University to recoup its investment in the lodge, which has amounted to around $1 million in maintenance. At the current asking price, selling the lodge would only leave about $375,000 for each campus — a relative drop in the bucket.

The lodge is currently up for sale for $2.5 million. It was originally listed in 2014 for $6.5 million, but has seen significant depreciation of value after three and a half years on market.
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I actually remember the first time I heard a Taylor Swift song. It was “Our Song,” and I was 11, riding in the car with my dad. That song, I thought, was one of the cleverest things I’d ever heard. Even my dad acquiesced and admitted that it was “cute.”

Since then, you could annotate the timeline of my life with Taylor Swift songs I love. Songs like “Picture to Burn,” “You Belong with Me” and “Mine” perfectly captured a teenage girl’s life in a small town, or at least what I imagined that ought to be.

I was starting my first year of college when Swift’s sound underwent a fundamental change in “1989.” Here was a grown-up Swift album for me, a newly-minted grown-up. That was always the fundamental magic of my Taylor Swift love affair — even though I’m seven years younger than she is, I always felt she was maturing alongside me.

So when Swift announced the release of her sixth album, “Reputation,” I imagined that she would emerge with some gained perspective. I wanted 27-year-old Taylor to guide me into the next phase of my life.

But “Reputation” is … petty. Swift sneers at those who’ve done her wrong. She demonstrates complete tunnel vision on what everyone thinks of her, but then announces she doesn’t care. On the album’s first single, “Look What You Made Me Do,” she’s a miffed princess stomping through someone’s Barbie dreamhouse and bragging about the revenge she’s wreaking — although the only tangible revenge appears to be the song itself, so … OK.

It doesn’t sound like a Swift album, either, although I guess she had to lose the acoustic pop thing eventually. But on “Reputation,” she borrows from so many electronic pop trends that none of it sounds particularly unique. I can’t begrudge her for trying to grow, but there’s nothing cohesive or forward-thinking about her attempt.

Much has been written about Swift’s tendency to paint herself as a victim, her apparent conviction that she has been repeatedly wronged by the music industry, the media, fellow celebrities and countless men. I would never argue with the idea that women in show business are undoubtedly treated poorly (and that men as a species are generally trash goblins), and would never argue that Swift’s experiences as a young star weren’t damaging, but I can’t help but be frustrated at her refusal to move on.

I don’t want to discredit another woman’s negative experiences, or take from her the right to make art to process the ways she’s been wronged. But here’s the thing: Bad shit happens to everyone, and Taylor Swift is a millionaire. She’s white and she’s beautiful. Regardless of what other celebrities are saying about her, she will always have millions of people around the world willing to buy her full latest album — which, for the record, is the only legal way to listen to “Reputation” at this point.

Swift and the people she cares about will never be financially or socially insecure. Multiple songs on this album mention royalty and kingdoms, which seems like a fitting analogy for how Swift views what is rightfully hers.

“‘They’re burning all the witches even if you aren’t one,’” she sings on “I Did Something Bad.” But I struggle to see how she’s really been burned.

This is where Taylor Swift and I differed on our paths into adulthood. I like to think I’m relatively aware of my privilege. There’s certainly more to learn, and more that I could be doing. But just acknowledging that I’m one of a lucky-ass group of privileged people who has benefited endlessly from the oppression of others has dramatically reshaped my worldview over the last few years.

Taylor Swift has, to my knowledge, never publicly discussed a feminist issue that doesn’t have to do with public perception of her. Her lawyers go after any writer who dares to mention how white supremacists have embraced Swift, but the singer herself has declined to give any public statement disavowing white supremacy or taking any political stances whatsoever.

Does Donald Trump being president mean Taylor Swift can’t write songs about her breakups? Absolutely not. But failing to recognize that, hey, maybe those things that have happened to her aren’t the worst things that have ever happened to a person makes her at best out-of-touch, and at worst in deliberate denial of the very factors that built her precious kingdom.

Music doesn’t have to be serious all the time, and I will certainly head-bop to some new Taylor Swift songs. That shit’s catchy, as it’s designed to be. But in a decade, I won’t listen to this album with nostalgia. It’ll be the work of just another pop star I outgrew.
THEATRE REVIEW

Between the Lines Theatre returns for an emotional second season

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The raw intimacy, handcrafted sets and ambitious storytelling makes the theatergoing experience a thrilling one. Local company, Between the Lines Theatre, returns for its second season at the Roxy Theater and hopes to showcase these qualities for the Missoula community.

Both second season openers, “Gruesome Playground Injuries” and “Danny and the Deep Blue Sea” are two-handers, which means they’re performed by just two actors on stage. “Gruesome Playground Injuries” follows the lives of Kayleen and Doug, two childhood friends who continue to cross paths at strange points throughout their lives. The play is written by Pulitzer Prize-nominated playwright Rajiv Joseph and spans a timeline of over 30 years.

“Danny and the Deep Blue Sea” takes place on just one night, centering on a conversation between characters Danny and Roberta in a seedy bar in the Bronx. Written by Pulitzer Prize-winning dramatist John Patrick Shanley, the play stars local actress and University of Montana graduate Sophia Jensen as Roberta.

“This play holds nothing back,” Jensen said. “I think getting to expose such raw emotions to people really makes doing what I do worth it.”

Jensen saw the Between the Lines Theatre production of “Constellations” in February and was incredibly moved, motivating her to audition for the company and land a role in its production of “Stupid Fucking Bird” in May.

“This company really inspired me and I knew right away that I wanted to be a part of it after seeing ‘Constellations,’” she said.

Company founder and director, Mason J. Wagner, praised Jensen as a natural performer and compared her to the untrained actors in director Elia Kazan’s films. Wagner hopes audiences will find these plays entertaining and develop empathy for the characters.

“We don’t often feel for each other and these plays allow for that to happen,” he said.

Wagner is drawn to the community aspect of theater and appreciates that people get to have a shared experience as audience members.

Wagner received his BFA in acting in spring 2016 from UM. Around the same time, he started producing plays at the Roxy. In May 2016, his company began production on Annie Baker’s Pulitzer Prize-winning play “The Flick,” which centers around three movie theater ushers in Worcester, Massachusetts. It was then that Wagner realized he wanted to keep partnering with the Roxy on additional plays.

“I wanted to create a platform for intimate and emotionally raw performances and the Roxy was a great outlet for that,” Wagner said.

In November 2016, Between the Lines Theatre officially kicked off its first season with a production of another Annie Baker play, “The Aliens,” following conversations between three men in the backyard of a coffee house.

“We like to have different casts for each play we do,” Wagner said. “I’ve had life-long friendships with talented people, and luckily they wanted to become involved with the company.”

This year, Between the Lines Theatre has a longer run of performances and more show dates than its debut season. Wagner thinks his company’s plays are more youth-focused than typical Broadway fare.

“I think the language of these plays resonates more with young people,” he said. “Most young people are only exposed to plays when they go see something like ‘Guys and Dolls,’ and then they never want to go to the theater again. But younger audiences will relate more to the characters and feel emotionally affected.”

Wagner hopes he can keep telling honest and emotionally true stories on the stage for years to come.

“We’re always continuing to experiment and find new ways to tell stories,” he said.

Griz out for revenge in 117th Brawl of the Wild

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In 2016, Montana sat on the playoff bubble heading into the last game of the season. A win against rival Montana State, and the Griz were likely in the playoffs. Montana, heavy favorites entering the game, lost on its home field 24-17 to a Bobcat team that entered the game just 3-7.

The loss, and the Bobcats’ celebration inside Washington-Grizzly Stadium, has been on the minds of the Montana players and coaching staff since. Even before Montana’s game against Northern Colorado, coach Bob Stitt and his team were thinking about the biggest game of the year.

“We finished our regular season now and the Super Bowl is Saturday,” Stitt said. “We’ve been talking about it for a long time and it couldn’t have gotten here fast enough. I’m very excited to get to work.”

The Griz (7-3/5-2 BSC), just like in 2016, will enter the game as the favorites. They are also playing for their playoff lives. A win, and Montana will likely make the playoffs and host a first round game. A loss, and the Griz will miss back-to-back playoffs for the first time since 1991-92. (That doesn’t count the vacated playoff appearance in 2011).

Montana has been in playoff mode ever since losing to Weber State on Oct. 28. Last year, a loss to Northern Colorado with just two weeks left in the season severely derailed their playoff hopes. Part one of the revenge tour is complete, now Montana State is the only thing standing in their way.

“Losing sucks in general but when you lose to those guys it really stinks,” wide receiver Makena Simis said. “It’s a huge game for us but at the end of the day we’re also fighting to keep ourselves alive. It’s been playoffs now for two weeks. It’s a playoff game and it’s the Brawl of the Wild, so it’s going to be a big one.”

It will be a battle of two very different teams. The Grizzlies have the best offense in the Big Sky Conference, averaging over 36 points per game. Montana State, meanwhile, allows just 25 points per game, the second-best mark in the conference.

Redshirt-freshman Gresch Jensen, who returned from injury in the Northern Colorado win, will participate in his first Brawl of the Wild. Despite missing nearly two full games due to injury and starting the season as the backup, Jensen is still sixth in the conference in total offense.

“It’s probably going to be a new experience but honestly it’s just the same football,” Jensen said. “You’re just going out there trying to win the game. Just go out there and win the game, that’s all that matters.”

It all comes down to this for Montana. Win and you’re in. Lose to your in-state rival for the second straight year, and it will be another long offseason for Griz Nation.

Bob Stitt summed it up simply:
““There is nothing more important in our football life than winning that ball game on Saturday.”

Views from the 406: Jensen gives Griz fans a reason to believe

In the post-game press conference following the 44-14 dismantling of Northern Colorado, Gresch Jensen was asked why he doesn’t slide more often. The redshirt-freshman had missed much of the Weber State game and all of the Northern Arizona game with a concussion.

Still, the mobile quarterback didn’t shy away from contact in the win against Northern Colorado, repeatedly searching it out.

“I probably need to get down a little more, I’m going to give coach Stitt a heart attack,” Jensen said following the game. “I probably need to protect myself a little better but once you get out in the open field you kind of feel like Barry Sanders or something out there.”

The quote earned laughs from the working media, but it also showed the confident mindset of the Grizzlies’ quarterback. For a freshman, Jensen is one of the most self-assured players I’ve ever seen. He’s not just confident in himself, he also believes his receivers can make any play for him.

Take the touchdown pass to Samori Toure early in the second quarter of the Northern Colorado game. Jensen felt the pressure coming and lobbed a deep pass toward the back of the end zone. Toure went one-on-one against his defender, leaping up and over the Bears’ player to haul in an impressive touchdown.

After the game, Jensen said he just trusted his guy to go and make a play. When you have talent at the wide receiver position like Montana does, the QB just has to give them a chance.

Jensen has found success this year taking advantage of the game plan and using the different skills of each receiver. He is constantly getting the ball to Jerry Louie-McGee in the open field. He has routinely connected with Keenan Curran on deep balls. Players like Justin Callhoun and Toure have torched defenses over the middle all season long.

When Reese Phillips went down with an injury, this Montana season could have easily come crashing down. Instead, the Griz found their man for the future. Jensen has the mindset and the confidence required to be a great quarterback. He also gets to keep almost all of his weapons next year.

Jensen is sixth in the conference in total offense and has been the second most efficient quarterback. He has the second most passing yards by a freshman in the country behind only Caylin Newton, Cam Newton’s younger brother, at Howard.

Montana needs a win in the regular season finale to continue the 2017 season into the playoffs. But no matter what happens next weekend, expect Jensen and the Grizzlies to be very good for years to come.

KAIMIN COLUMN

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Freshmen profiles: Kramer and Falls add more depth to Griz basketball

The Montana men’s basketball team has two freshmen who can agree on one thing. Despite their respectable prep careers, college ball is much more fast-paced than high school.

“You play a full high school game and then you play 10 minutes of a college game and you’re just as tired,” Kelby Kramer said.

Kramer is a 6-foot-10 center from Rock Springs, WY. He was the second best prospect to come out of Wyoming in 2017. During his senior season, he was the only player in Class 4A to average a double-double. He averaged 13 points and 11 rebounds and led the state in blocks and rebounds.

Timmy Falls is from Dublin, California. The 6-foot-2 guard averaged 13 points last season. He also averaged 3.5 assists and 3 rebounds per game. The Bay Area News Group selected Falls to first team All-Metro.

“You can slowly but surely see the game start to slow down for both of them and allow them to make more plays,” associate head coach Chris Cobb said. “It will speed up on them here as we start putting jerseys on.”

During Montana’s exhibition against Saskatchewan on Nov. 6, Kramer played in 13 minutes and led the team with blocks (6) and rebounds (9), doing what he did best in high school. Kramer can be a solid defensive presence for the Griz this season if he doesn’t end up redshirting.

Kramer said the decision to redshirt is coming up, and he hasn’t quite made up his mind about if that is the route he wants to take. But he’s optimistic about his tenure as a player, whichever road he decides to take.

“If I redshirt I’d like to contribute on the practice team to help get my teammates better,” Kramer said. “If I play, I’d love to block and contest a lot of shots at the rim and grab a lot of rebounds.”

Falls scored 11 points in 14 minutes during the Saskatchewan exhibition while shooting 80 percent (4-5) from the field. He made both his attempts from beyond the three-point line.

Cobb described Falls as “old school” tough. He said taking physical contact doesn’t knock Falls off his game.

“He is tough in how the game used to be. He’s okay with contact and playing through adversity and that’s one of his strengths,” Cobb said. “He has a knack for scoring, but I think he has a real knack for the game.”

Kramer said he decided to play for Montana because of the atmosphere and how he fit into the program. Kramer said recruiting started late for him, so he was fortunate to get offers from Idaho State and Montana.

When Falls came to visit, he liked the community and how they supported the team. He said the coaches did a great job persuading him to join.

“What it always comes down to is building relationships, us getting to know them and them getting to know us,” Cobb said. “When you know who you’re going to bring into your basketball family, it’s always that much easier to coach them.”

Earlier in the season, DeCuire said he only wanted to have one or two players redshirt with Donovan Dorsey out for the season due to a hip injury, these two freshmen still don’t know what role they will play on the team and how many minutes they could get. But the exhibition against Saskatchewan proved they are ready if their names are called.