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Montana Kaimin, November 29, 2017

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MONTANA KAIMIN

NO DRUGS, NO BOOZE, NO JERKS



MISSOULA'S NEW INDEPENDENT MUSIC VENUE

NEWS Californians are
taking over the Big Sky

ARTS Björk
flourishes on 'Utopia'

SPORTS What you missed
over Turkey Day



Issue No. 12 November 29, 2017

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Titillation leg
5 TV skipper Alan
9 Fresh, as lettuce
14 Prefix for "legal" or "normal"
15 "Excuse me..."
16 Nonsense
17 Part of ICU
18 Dreamer of myth
20 Tear down
22 McQueen's "The Great..."
23 Archaeological site
24 Alligator's haunt
26 Moving meals
30 One way to serve veggies
33 Drift
34 "Cheers" barfly
35 Fluid build-up
37 Entomologist
39 Way to sway
40 What Eve did
41 "JFK" director
42 Hue
44 PC document
45 Chef's need
46 Dashboard dial
49 Picker's place
50 Sought office
51 AT&T rival
54 Ship maintenance site
58 Secondary residence
61 Cream ingredient
62 Adjust, in a way
63 Proper
64 "Great shot!"
65 Fundamental belief
66 Financial worry

DOWN

67 Handyman's need
1 Polite, stangly
2 Wind down
3 Bulb flower
4 "Eyes" star
5 Like some lights
6 Call to a mate
7 Stay okay
8 Outback bird
9 32 pieces and a board
10 Kind of insect
11 Snidgen
12 Leak slowly
13 Flexy slack
15 Sun-cracked
21 Fix, in a way
24 Hitched, so to speak
25 Candy bar out
26 Take hold of

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

A	L	U	M	N	I	C	H	E	C	L	A	D
B	O	N	O	I	N	L	A	W	A	G	N	E
I	N	C	O	M	P	L	E	T	E	R	O	O
D	E	L	T	A	A	R	E	P	E	N	N	Y
E	R	E	J	U	N	K	M	A	I	L		
	B	O	N	O	A	I	L	E	R	O	N	
U	N	H	U	R	T	T	I	R	E	S	O	M
R	E	E	L	W	I	E	L	D	S	P	E	W
G	O	A	L	L	I	N	E	R	E	L	E	N
E	N	D	M	O	S	T	H	O	L	Y		
	A	N	T	E	L	O	P	E				
G	E	N	R	E	R	I	M	C	A	R	O	M
A	M	D	K	I	N	F	I	L	T	R	A	T
F	I	N	E	T	E	E	N	Y	E	W	E	R
F	R	E	T	S	E	R	G	E	A	L	L	Y

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SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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:

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

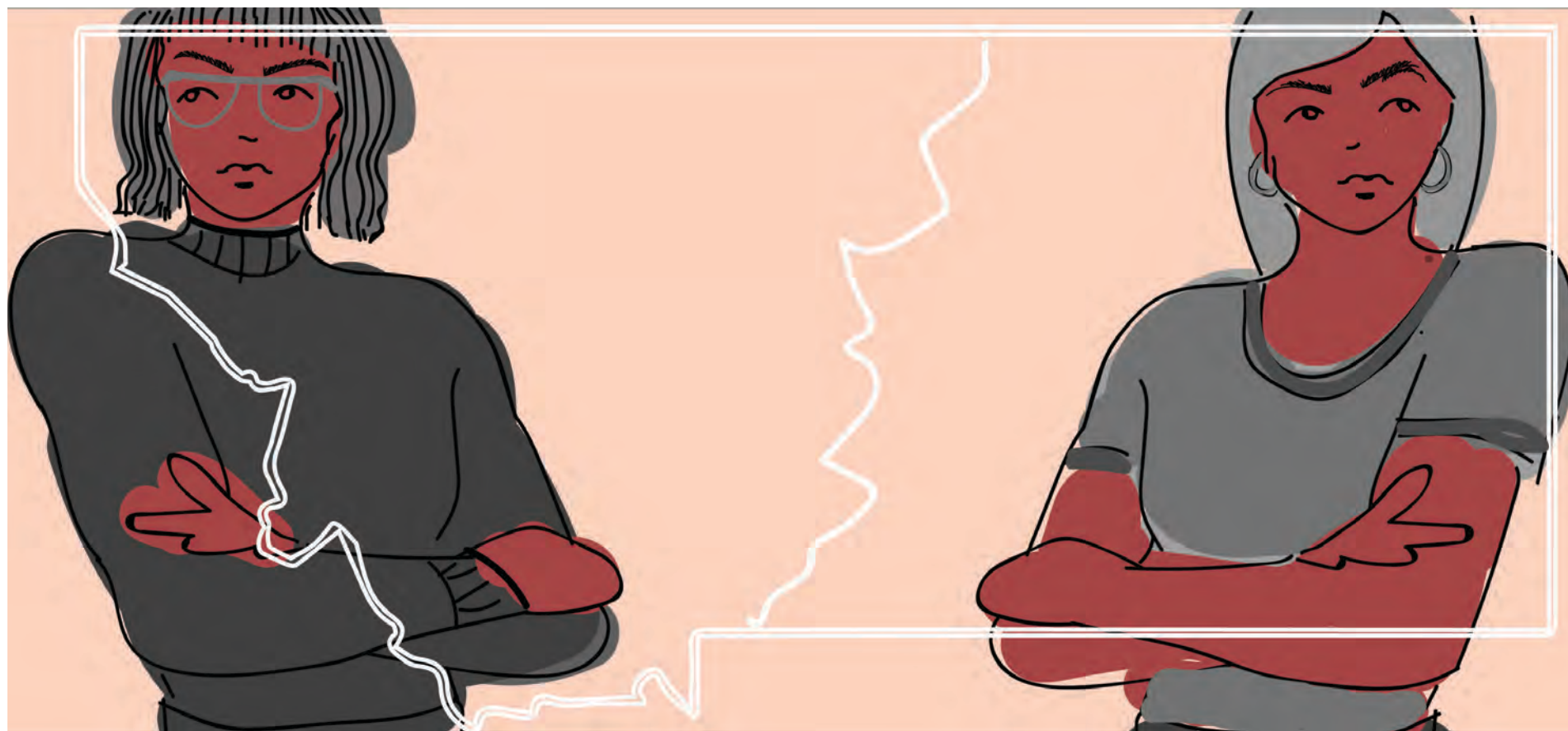


ILLUSTRATION RENE SANCHEZ

Montanans, stop bashing the Treasure State

It's a tale as old as time: kids in Montana grow up hating their hometown, knowing there's nothing to do there and dying to get out. When they go back to visit they bring friends and significant others to giggle at its backwards quaintness.

Even so, it's still upsetting to see other people assume that every Montana town — yes, even Great Falls — is only full of close-minded hypocrites who spend their weekends at the Sip 'n Dip.

A *New York Times* style piece published on Nov. 25 called the mermaid-centric eatery "the campiest place on earth." The article, written by ex-Montanans Brooks Barnes, takes shots at the kitschiness of the establishment and the fashion sensibilities of its patrons.

While coastal elites get away with their fair share of Big Sky bashing, that same behavior is just as common among Montanans.

Have you heard about Butte? Butte is Montana's trailer park. Have you heard about Great Falls? It's like Montana's homophobic version of Disneyland, complete with same number of fake storefronts but with more drinking. Have you heard of Billings? It's Montana's ghetto, filled with

gangs, drugs and weirdly shaped buildings. All this from the mouths of Montanans.

University students are really bad about this. They want to think that they've become educated and tolerant, that they aren't "that person" from Butte or Great Falls. College kids: We get it, it's hard to deal with being from a town where most people don't share or even actively attack your values, but it's not so hard that you have to make fun of how many teeth said attackers have or don't have.

It's easy for moneyed conservatives in *Bozeman* and Whitefish and liberal Missoulians to say, "That's not us." But the more we pretend that people two hours away from us are trash because of the surrounding landscape or their cities' reputations, the more we distance ourselves from the real problem.

Our own micro-elitism happens across the state every day. Understanding people in conservative cities in Montana and realizing that they aren't all stupid or homophobic is not only the job of CNN or the *New York Times*. It's also the job of other Montanans to not write them off as some type of "other."

Montana is a sparsely populated, mostly rural state, where the median income is almost \$7,000 dollars less than the national average. The problems of small towns are the same as the problems of our small cities.

When struggling people working low wage jobs in Missoula point and laugh at struggling people working low wage jobs in Butte or any other small, well-hated town, they just feed into a system that puts all Montanans at a disadvantage.

It's a problem that journalism from major news outlets often caters to educated, moneyed liberals in coastal cities. It's a problem that people from conservative areas are portrayed as weirdos, hillbillies or trailer trash. It's a problem that people who have never been to a place like Montana absolutely gobble that kind of story up.

But an even bigger problem is Montanans acting like these aren't their problems, too.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

KAIMIN COLUMN

Queeries: I don't give a shit if you like me or not

I feel like a lot of trans and gay people are often too aggressive with their opinions. How do they expect support from others if they're alienating their allies?

It's funny you say that, because I feel like some people are too aggressive with their homophobia and transphobia. The difference between those people and "aggressive" gay and trans people is that gay and trans people have a legitimate reason to be upset. If someone else is questioning my humanity or my access to basic rights, I have every reason to be loud and emphatic in my disagreement with them. Does that make me less lovable? Maybe. Do I care even a little bit? Nope.

It's not like LGBTQ people have nothing to be upset about. Fighting for legitimacy and recognition in any environment — whether it's politics, school, work or even in your own family — is very often frustrating. Living in fear of transphobic and homophobic violence is exhausting. Hearing constant microaggressions every day builds from irritating to infuriating. Is it any wonder we're not always prepared to address your bullshit calmly?

No one really ever seems to fault cishet people for expressing their emotions in ill-mannered ways. I might not understand why someone would get so upset by their team losing a football game that they throw a plate of chicken wings at their TV, but I'm

not going to refuse to see them as human after witnessing such a display.

I've worked in retail before. I understand that people get worked up over petty things. I've seen it. I've even been irritated by it on more than one occasion, but I also understand that there are countless factors contributing to someone's behavior. None of those factors make a person less deserving of my compassion and respect. Instead of punishing LGBTQ folks for expressing their emotions, try to understand where they're coming from and recognize that they probably need your support in those moments more than ever.

Trans and gay people are expected to remain emotionless in the face of attacks against them, but they're also expected to be respectable in their everyday lives. Straight and cisgender people seem to have an idea of the "perfect" queer person, against whom they judge all real queer people in their lives. I'm talking about people who are "fine" with gay couples as long as they're not holding hands or kissing in public. I'm talking about people who think their trans friend doesn't react "gracefully" enough when they get misgendered. I'm talking about people who love going to gay bars for their bachelorette parties, but think that pride parades are taking it too far. You don't get to pick and choose which

causes you support based on your level of discomfort.

If someone's support of me is contingent on how meek I am in the face of oppression or how well I would get along with their granny, they're not actually supporting me. They're dangling their allyship in front of me in the hopes that I'll behave the way they want me to. I do the same thing with my cats when I want them to stop scratching the furniture. It doesn't work on them either.

Got a query? 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.

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KAIMIN COLUMN

East Missoula: hidden treasure or secret government project?

The contemporary mythology of Germany is a surreal and ever-changing thing. My favorite piece of lore attests that the small town of Bielefeld (near Hamburg) isn't real, and is instead an illusion propagated by the German government to hide UFOs and secret nuclear facilities. While this may seem like a stretch, what your everyday Missoulian doesn't realize is that we too have a Bielefeld-esque situation in our own valley. East Missoula exists on the boundary of truth and legend, and I have wholeheartedly committed to the idea that it's a fictitious federal creation to hide an extensive Bitcoin mining operation.

As my roommate Erin told me once, "I'm a good girl. I don't go to East Missoula." Well, Erin, does anyone go to East Missoula? Have you ever met someone who has been to East Missoula? I decided to test my preconceived notions about this "town" and take the number four bus line down Highway 200 to try to spot any glitches in the Matrix. My fellow bus riders were mostly old men, but there was also a small gaggle of school-age kids wearing pajamas and making out, which I guess is what you do if you are an East Missoulian youth who is fortunate

enough to go to school in the city and not work long hours in the mining shafts looking for glowing Bitcoin ore.

East Missoula is basically just three gas stations, a "motel" that's suspiciously cheap considering a night's stay includes breakfast, small trailers and houses, and, like, two weird new condo developments that stick out like sore thumbs. Are they housing Bitcoin miners?

Farther down the highway are more trailer parks, but then you stumble upon the golden beacon that is the Travel Plaza. Inside the Travel Plaza there is a Subway, a produce section, extensive aisles of booze and roughly six different registers.

Moving down the road through Bonner and into Milltown, you approach the enormous warehouse that contains the thousands of computers used to mine bitcoins. To be clear, I'm not making this up. This place exists. Google it if you don't believe me.

What is Bitcoin mining? After extensive research into what seems like shady underground mafia-type tech dealings, it turns out Bitcoin mining is basically legitimizing and recording digital currency (Bitcoin) transac-

tions. I don't, and probably never will, fully understand what Bitcoin mining actually means, but after looking at several very basic infographics, I now can say with confidence that it is probably legal.

Final thoughts on East Missoula and surrounding area: Yes, there is an extensive Bitcoin mining operation there housed in an enormous warehouse that buzzes constantly with the sound of cooling fans. Is the rest of the town a facade to legitimize that operation? Probably not. It's actually kind of cute in a "small town with a big gas station" way. Go check it out, get a slushie and keep a keen ear for the humming of Bitcoin magic.

CAYLEY BOYD

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BUDGET CUTS

The biology department needs a new dean, but they can't start until APASP is finished

MELISSA LOVERIDGE

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Associate dean for the Division of Biological Sciences Charles Janson didn't make it a secret that he planned on retiring this year. Even still, his department has to wait for final program prioritization decisions in mid-December to start looking for his replacement.

"We've already got a search committee formed," Creagh Breuner, professor and assistant to the DBS associate dean, said. "We are ready to go when we get approval."

A search for someone outside of the University to fill a University position must be approved by the Provost's Office. That office is waiting until the Academic Programs and Administrative Services Prioritization task force has made their final recommendations, scheduled to be announced Dec. 15, to approve any searches.

The DBS sent a letter to President Sheila Stearns and interim Provost Beverly Edmond earlier in November emphasizing the importance of the position in a large department. According to the letter, DBS has 36 tenure-track faculty, 50 grad students, and 408 undergrad students in 3 interdisciplinary majors. The department is split into two halves; macro and microbiology, which each have a program director who reports to Janson.

Breuner said if she steps into the assistant dean position she could be the interim associate dean for up to a year.

"I value this program a lot. I have phenomenal colleagues," Breuner said. She said she was willing to step in temporarily, but would have to spend much less time researching, writing papers and working with her grad students if she filled the position.

She explained that searching for an administrative position is different than a faculty position because they're not looking for someone actively searching for a job. Instead, the search committee will send letters to biology departments across the US asking them to apply.

Janson said he understands and respects that the search has to wait for APASP, but feels it isn't likely someone within his department will take it on long-term.

"It would be a career killer for a regular tenure track faculty member to take this on," Janson said. "It's a daunting job and it's a huge imposition to ask a tenure-track faculty to do that."

Janson compared being associate dean of DBS to running "a combo of a small college and a small corporation," since it brings in about \$6 million of research business every year.

"If there's one really bright spot at UM at the moment, it's the incredible surge in research volume and quality,"



Charles Janson, associate dean of biological sciences, photographs Lake McDonald during a Wilderness Institute-sponsored Glacier National Park photography course on Oct. 5, 2012. PHOTO KAIMIN ARCHIVES

Janson said. He's not wrong; even with enrollment dropping and budget cuts, research revenue has continually grown throughout the past few years.

Stephen Lodmell, a professor and researcher studying Rift Valley fever virus, said Janson's retirement is a loss for the department.

"Charlie's done a magnificent job of these below-the-radar administrative functions," said Lodmell, who attends weekly meetings with Janson as the program director of microbiology. "[He] has been the voice of biology."

Lodmell said current DBS faculty didn't want to step into the position of associate dean for a variety of reasons.

"It's very difficult for a faculty member to rotate into that position without hurting their research ... [and] discarding our scientific careers," Lodmell said. He said he and the department "understand and respect" that they won't receive permission to search for a new associate dean until APASP makes its final decisions, but sent the letter to emphasize the importance of the position of associate dean to his department.

Edmond said the request, along with all other requests to fill positions that weren't directly associated with ac-

creditation, was on hold in her office until after APASP announces its final decisions.

"It would be premature and inappropriate to make any decisions before APASP," she said. Edmond said some positions at the University were filled with temporary replacements from inside their departments, but that there were a "number of competing requests" for out-of-university searches from various departments.

"The question is whether someone internally is willing to take that [position] on," Edmond said. "It does require a balance, but balance happens all the time."

As for Janson, he's not sure the search committee will find a replacement for him on the first try.

"There's always a chance a search like this will fail," Janson said. He said candidates for his position were probably somewhat rooted where they were, and that there wouldn't be a "huge universe" of applicants that would be willing to up and move quickly.

"Starting the search now, we certainly won't be doing interviews before the spring," Janson said. "We're asking a mid-career person ... to pull up roots and come here ... The sooner the better."

DORM EXPERIMENTS

I grew a potato, but is it making me healthier?

ROSIE COSTAIN

anna.costain@umontana.edu / @rosecostain

After neglecting a potato for several weeks, my roommate and I had a shriveled lump with inch-long eyes sprouting from its surface. I planted it, and after only a few weeks, my potato has produced a foot-tall stalk.

Now, it sits on my houseplant-filled windowsill. And as I take care of these plants, I may be getting something in return.

"I think plants are wonderful," said Linda Green, the Curry Health Center wellness director. "There's actually some research that shows plants can improve your health and reduce fatigue and stress."

While these claims appear on articles in social media feeds, they have actual scientific backing.

A study conducted by NASA scientist Bill Wolverton in the 1960s found that houseplants can improve indoor air quality by emitting water vapor, which creates a pump-

ing action to pull contaminated air down to a plant's roots. NASA promotes Wolverton's research to this day.

Plants also give off oxygen, and they add humidity to the air helping to sooth dry skin, coughs and sore throats, according to a study from the University of Norway.

A heavily cited article from Washington State University in 1996, found that indoor plants can improve productivity by making people feel more attentive and reduce stress by lowering blood pressure.

According to Green, students report stress as a major impact on their success in school. While working on time management, getting enough sleep and exercise, and having a healthy diet are crucial this time of year, plants might help as well, Green said.

University Center garden manager Kelly Chadwick has taken care of the plants inside the UC for the last 34 years has a few tips for aspiring houseplant owners.

To start, it's important to choose the right plant. Those who tend to forget about their plants should stick with a cactus. More attentive plant owners might try ponytail

palms, cypress plants or peace lilies.

Next comes water and light needs. Usually, it's time to water when soil is dry to the touch. While windows provide great light, overhead lights can work as well, Chadwick said. It's also important to consider pot size, soil type, and pest control.

Trying to grow food follows similar principles, but can be more complicated, said Stasia Orkwiszewski, the UM Dining garden manager.

"If you want to do robust indoor gardening, that becomes pretty challenging," Orkwiszewski said, who runs the microgreens and aquaponics systems in the Lommason Center. "But, if you want to grow some herbs, that's pretty easy."

Orkwiszewski suggests herbs like chives or lemon-grass.

As for my potato, she said, after a couple of months, the plant will flower and start to naturally die back. Then, I can dig around and see what's there.

RESUMÉ BUILDING

UM students tutor kids in Spanish; gain experience in return

SHAYLEE RAGAR

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Six kids in a small classroom at Paxson Elementary School in Missoula were coloring and chattering excitedly when one of their tutors motioned to her ear and called out, "Escuchen!"

It may have taken a couple of tries to get their attention, but soon students were looking at Anna Reely, University of Montana student and Spanish tutor, attentively. The kids knew she was asking them to listen (in Spanish) for directions to the next activity.

Paxson Elementary is Montana's first and only public Spanish-immersion school. All grade levels spend part of their day learning in the second language. This semester, the Spanish Department at UM partnered with the school to provide tutors for students who need extra help.

Pablo Requena, UM Spanish professor, created an internship for UM students to help new kids at Paxson School assimilate to the immersion program.

"The after-school program we put together every week seeks to help these child learners gain confidence in using Spanish, and to remember words and expressions that are very frequent in the second

language," Requena said in an email.

The UM students are there to teach, but they want the kids to have fun, too. Emma Vaincourt, an elementary education and Spanish major, said the kids are eager to learn.

"It's cool to watch them use the skills we've been teaching them," Vaincourt said.

Seven Spanish tutors take turns teaching and planning lessons each week. They try to incorporate five new vocabulary words each meeting through games, arts and crafts and other activities. Games like "Simon Dice (Says)" are particularly useful because they combine a command with a gesture. Ethan Jenkins, a business major and Spanish minor, said the kids embrace fun and quirky activities.

The tutors speak to each other in Spanish, and speak both languages with the kids, often repeating what they say. Principal Peter Halloran said Spanish Club is filling a gap for students who are entering Paxson after kindergarten.

"We recognize that we have a lot of students who enter mid-stream," Halloran said.

Paxson administrators aren't turning kids away who move into the district without prior exposure to Spanish, Halloran said. He said there are many benefits for students in the Spanish-immersion program. Having the ability to speak another language is at the top



A handful of kids gather for their weekly extracurricular Spanish Club after school hours at Paxson Elementary School in Missoula on Nov. 16. PHOTO TATE SAMATA

of the list.

A study released by the Cervantes Institute, a non-profit organization created by the Spanish government, predicts that by 2050, the U.S. will have the largest number of Spanish-speakers in the world.

"I predict that graduates from these bilingual programs will have an immense advantage not only for global connections, but also within our country," Requena said.

ENROLLMENT

Students are like avocados (we get them from California)

CASSIDY ALEXANDER

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Love them, hate them, you can't avoid them: The University of Montana is home to plenty of Californians. Despite Montana's "get lost" attitude, UM is actively trying to recruit more of them, attending almost twice as many college fairs in California as any other state.

These students have more incentive to attend school in Montana than just gorgeous landscapes and being a thousand miles from home. California has more potential students than it can educate, making it harder for residents to get into and afford school in their home state. For them, Montana is an inexpensive escape — and for UM, the Golden State is a potential enrollment gold mine.

Katie Beisel, 19, said she always wanted to leave California to attend college. Studying health and human performance, Beisel said attending the University of Montana was the right decision personally and financially.

Beisel is a recipient of the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) scholarship. Paying 150 percent of Montana resident tuition each semester, students, like Beisel, from qualifying states can attend UM with significantly lower costs than other out-of-state students.

The undergraduate cost of attendance, including tuition and fees, room and board, and other miscellaneous costs, for a full-time WUE student at UM is \$23,839 per year, according to the Financial Aid Office's website. The average price of a comparable four-year public institution in California is \$27,730 per year. This means over four years, California students can save enough money to purchase a 2018 Nissan Versa — with enough leftover money to buy over 36 pairs of Birkenstocks.

"[UM is] literally cheaper than staying in state and going to any of the schools I wanted to go to," Beisel said. "WUE was a very, very big factor for me going to school here."

Money isn't the only thing that distinguishes Montana universities from those in California. UM accepts 91 percent of undergraduate students who apply and Montana State University accepts 83 percent, according to the Princeton Review. California State universities accept about 57 percent of students and University of California schools only accept about 40 percent of applying students on average — nearly half of Montana's admission rates.

Beisel applied to 10 schools before deciding to attend the University of Montana. Her dream school, the University of California Los Angeles, was both overpriced and too selective, she said.

UCLA stands as one of the most competitive universities in the country, despite being a four-year public university like UM and MSU. UCLA accepts only 16.1 percent of applying students



GRAPHIC CAITLN SOLTESZ

and costs \$33,604 each year to attend for in-state students, accumulating to \$134,416 over four years. UM is predicted to cost \$81,904 over four years for Montana residents — more than a third less.

Kaitlin Dorrrough, 21, came to UM as a transfer student from a junior college in California. The business management information systems major from Hemet, California, said her high school didn't encourage students to look beyond California for college.

Dorrrough has family from Montana and has been visiting the state since she was young. Aside from always being connected to Montana, she said an accounting professor she had in California who had previously taught at UM was the only other source of enthusiasm for attending school in Montana.

"Had I not had family up here, that's probably the only way I would've known about it," Dorrrough said. "[California high schools] don't want you to go elsewhere."

UM is scheduled to attend 29 college fairs in 21 California cities this fall. However, most of these events will be attended by just one recruiter.

Recruiters travel around the country every year to connect with potential students. They create personal relationships to introduce students to the University of Montana and encourage

them to attend school in Missoula.

There are four official recruiters for the University of Montana. Montana State University has 6 recruiters, allowing them to make 36 more college recruiting events in 24 more locations than UM.

Twenty-five percent of students at UM come from out of state. Of these, 177 percent of non-resident students are from California, according to the University Data Office. Half of Montana State University's students come from out of state, 15.8 percent of which are from California, according to MSU's Marketing website.

Tom Crady, UM's vice president for enrollment and student affairs, said UM has a "bare bones" admissions staff. Recruiters are gone for eight to 10 weeks at a time traveling across the country to bring more students to UM, he said.

Bringing more students to UM is absolutely crucial to the future success of the University, Crady said. One of the best ways to do so is by bringing on more recruiters who can spread their efforts and time more efficiently, he said.

"I was so ready to get out of [California]," Dorrrough said. "Had anybody from Montana been like 'Hey, you should come to our school,' I probably would have said 'Alright, looks cool to me.'"

NO DRUGS, NO BOOZE, NO JERKS

MISSOULA'S NEW INDEPENDENT
MUSIC VENUE
PHOTOS AND STORY
JOHN HOOKS



The Zootown Arts Community Center is at the edge of a small, residential neighborhood on Missoula's Northside. It's a block away from the KettleHouse taproom and has a rail link full of screeching trains for a backyard. From the entrance, a narrow flight of cement stairs leads into the basement, where a door, plastered with stickers, is propped open under an off-white light.

One Friday evening in mid-October, Ryan Carr and Foster Caffrey are in the basement getting ready to put on a concert that features a garage-rock-heavy lineup of touring acts and local bands.

"It's an after-work, run-over, do-things type situation," says Caffrey. Because the ZACC is close to where people

live, the show has to be over by 11 p.m., and the promoters are darting around trying to get everything ready in time so four bands can play full sets.

The basement room, known as the ZACC Below, is a large, concrete space. To the left of the entrance sits a modest stage covered with rugs and adorned with large speakers. A few beat-up couches are pushed back up against the far walls to clear an open area for dancing. A hodgepodge of colors and Christmas lights make this space cozy, if haphazard.

By 6:30 p.m., bands have started showing up. A local band, Go Hibiki, plays first and sets up instruments while the touring acts pile their equipment off to the left, play-

ing a game of Tetris with their large black utility boxes.

The first of the showgoers begin trickling in around 7:30 p.m. and, aside from a few high schoolers consorting with themselves on a couch, most seem to know each other. Carr and Caffrey roam the room, chatting with friends and band members while doing soundchecks.

The venue is intimate, with a maximum capacity of around 200 people. And while there is nothing pushing that limit tonight, there is still enough of a crowd to comfortably fill out the space in front of the stage. After hours of preparation, the music starts just before 9 p.m. The bands come from a variety of styles, from the full-throated rock of Go Hibiki to the accordion-accented folk rock of



The intimate and alcohol-free setting at the ZACC fosters an attentive and admiring environment during shows.

Rock and Roll Girlfriend. Something they all have in common seems to be a shared desire to blow out the speakers.

Between bands, the room steadily empties, with most of the crowd filing out to mingle around the sidewalk. The combined body heat of a bunch of people in a small room has started to fill up the basement, and outside the cool, autumn night air comes as a relief as people hang out and smoke cigarettes, talking about the last band, waiting for the next one.

“We had a very strange circumstance in Missoula,” Carr says of a period earlier this year, when the Palace Lounge and Stage 112 closed their doors to live music and Missoula’s independent, DIY music scene found itself without any reliable venues to host shows for local bands and less-well-known touring acts. “It became more of an urgent circumstance than anything else for us to find a space.”

The DIY music scene in Missoula is diverse and varied, not bound together by any one genre or influence, but by a shared reliance on independence. As musicians gained access to cheaper instruments and recording equipment in the late 1970s and ‘80s, more artists began

finding themselves outside of the standard record label hierarchy. Arising from the earliest punk and hardcore scenes that shirked record labels in favor of independent production and promotion, unsigned and low-profile artists embraced that most American of ethics and did it themselves.

Today, with social media and the internet, the process of DIY artistry has only grown more democratic and accessible. With minimal money and experience, almost anyone can start a band, record an album and release it out into the world.

That said, it can still be really hard to find a place to play your music live, in front of real people. Missoula is a friendly town to live music, but its options for reliable, consistent venues, especially for independent local and touring acts, are often minimal. For a while, Stage 112 and the Palace were two staples for indie bands, but even for small basement bar venues, the returns weren’t there. The Palace stopped booking shows in late February of this year, while Stage 112 followed suit in March.

Carr and Caffrey have been fixtures in this scene for years, experiencing it as performers in their bands Cairns and Fantasy Suite, as well as booking agents and promot-

ers for the local VFW and Camp Daze, an all-ages music festival held every summer. And when Missoula found itself without a space for their bands and the bands they like to see perform, Carr and Caffrey took it upon themselves to make one.

So in March they came up with the “Basement Fund” and began regularly hosting shows below the ZACC, a space that has somewhat consistently been a safe harbor for unsigned acts in Missoula. Using connections they’d made as performers and as promoters, they had little trouble getting traveling bands and locals to come play.

“There’s definitely been a lot of bands who wouldn’t have had a place to go otherwise,” Caffrey said.

“It was super clutch that they did that,” said Jon Cardello of local music group Wrinkles. “All those venues closed down simultaneously when a bunch of touring bands were coming through, so we needed something.”

When you meet them, Carr and Caffrey have an unassuming air that betrays only traces of the hard work and savvy that goes into their enterprise. Caffrey is hoodied and lanky, with scruffy, light brown hair and a beard. Carr is soft-spoken and wears glasses, with long, dark



Ryan Carr (pictured) and Foster Caffrey operate The Basement Fund as volunteers, doing everything from sound-mixing to social media promotion.

hair and an enviable mustache. Both are personable and come across as preternaturally casual, much more normal music fans than keen-eyed entrepreneurs.

For the most part, they are. The duo started on a show-by-show basis, booking acts and paying to reserve the space one night at a time. More people started showing up, and soon they were able to start paying rent consistently on the space and book acts in advance. By August, the basement was booked solid through November.

Carr and Caffrey operate the Basement Fund entirely as a nonprofit. They charge at the door, which usually entails politely asking for a \$5 donation. That money is used to pay rent, and the remainder is divided up into small cuts for bands. But those cuts, as a result of what Wrinkles member Sanders Smith describes as “pretty standard DIY touring practice,” are almost always wholly given to groups who are traveling through.

But limited resources bring challenges, particularly with expansion and promotion, and the Basement Fund relies heavily on word of mouth to bring people in.

The space is further hamstrung by other limitations — namely, its location. There’s not a lot of casual foot traffic by the train tracks on the Northside. Removed from

downtown, Basement Fund shows largely miss out on the potential customers who might happen upon it on a night out. To come to one of these shows requires intent, and while that presents challenges from a business standpoint, it’s also a large part of what makes the venue special for regulars.

The Basement Fund exists somewhere in the middle of the Venn diagram of where you would expect to see one of its shows. It has the infrastructure and reliability of an established bar venue and the casual nature and friendly environment of a show in someone’s living room. But where it separates itself is in its sobriety.

Drinking and socializing are undoubtedly big draws for venues. Whether at a bar or someone’s living room, booze gets feet in the door. But plenty of alcohol tends to lead to plenty of drunk people, and drunk people aren’t always the best or most courteous concertgoers.

“You don’t have to deal with drunken hecklers or anything, and we’ve definitely experienced our fair share of that,” said Smith of Wrinkles. He recounted a story from a house party in Bozeman, where, while his band was performing, one heavily inebriated audience member leaned

in, within a foot of his face, to loudly voice his displeasure with Wrinkles’ retro, synth-driven indie rock: “I get what you guys are doing but quit it with that eighties bullshit man! Bring the funk!”

“I get that you’re just at a party, having a good time,” Smith recalls thinking, “but I am literally in the middle of a show. Fuck you, dude.”

“That sort of thing would never happen at a ZACC show,” Cardiello, his bandmate, adds.

Basement Fund shows are the casual ideal: Just some people hanging out watching a band play some music. They’re not burdened by the distractions of drunken hecklers, there’s no fighting for inches of space in an overcrowded pit, no neighbors to call the cops with noise complaints.

“When people are here, they’re here to see music,” Caffrey said, summarily. It seems like an obvious statement, but it’s one that, when adopted as a mission statement, creates a noticeable and meaningful impact.

“Playing for people who actually want to be there is a much more rewarding experience,” said Smith, and it’s easy to understand where he’s coming from. The bands that come through and play in the basement are not mar-



Foster Caffrey has been involved with the live music scene in Missoula since he was in high school, both through his band Fantasy Suite, and as a promoter for Camp Daze.

quee headliners with legions of dedicated fans. They're either locals trying to practice their craft in a limited market or a few kids traveling the country in an old van and trying to get their name out. Most likely every one of them has endured long nights in dive bars where patrons sat around tables and avoided looking at them, or house shows where drunk dudes screamed at them to play different songs. And the frustration with those experiences is palpable in the way they show such gratitude for the reverse.

Caffrey and Carr are both musicians playing in this same community, and they've cultivated an environment that comes across as a place made by bands, for bands; by fans for fans. And that environment has made an impression.

"There are a lot of regulars and people telling people, so it's been good," Caffrey said.

"It's been a fantastic reception," Carr added.

And so word has spread, and demand has increased. Higher profile acts have come through, including Pine-

grove, an alt-country group from New Jersey and a personal favorite of both promoters. After their show at the ZACC in August, that band said it would probably be the last show it played outside of a theater or club.

At this point, the Basement Fund finds itself in a weird spot for a new and out-of-the way venue. "We've had to say no to people," Caffrey said, "which is weird."

With its profile increasing and demand rising, now seems like an unusual time to take a break. But from now until March, that's precisely what the Basement Fund is doing, with no new shows planned.

"Nobody wants to tour through Montana in mid-January," Carr said. And so the fund is hibernating for the winter, with an aim to come back stronger in the spring.

"We want to come back and do the same thing, just with like 10 more people" Caffrey said. Both he and Carr work 40-hour weeks and run the Basement Fund on a voluntary basis, which has created a workload they'd like to share.

"The need to get more people in here who can do things and be responsible is there," Caffrey said.

Taking a three-month break after such a strong run of shows seems in keeping with the overall ethos Carr and Caffrey have for their space. They're not about to ask anyone to brave iffy weather to Missoula to play in front of a tiny crowd. They're curators, not entrepreneurs, and they'd rather have no show at all than a bad one.

Carr and Caffrey have created a space that is emblematic of hard work, selflessness, passion and pure enjoyment. That can be hard to come by as art becomes commodified, a product of mass-market entertainment.

The Basement Fund is a small enterprise in the already little pond that is Missoula. It is not about to challenge the Wilma or Top Hat for market dominance. And Carr and Caffrey probably aren't interested in glorifying their project, they're probably just thinking about how they can put on better shows next year and keep carving out their own space on the other side of the tracks. That is, after the thaw.

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MONTANA KAIMIN

THE LAST BEST COLLEGE NEWS

MOVIE REVIEW

'Justice League' too generic and uninspired to stand out

NICK RUDOW

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When Zack Snyder signed on to direct "Justice League," worries spread among critics and comic book fans. After directing several critical flops, including the agonizing "Sucker Punch" and the artistic death sentence "Batman Vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice," Snyder's once-golden reputation had never been lower.

His gloomy stylistic approach to blockbuster filmmaking worked like gangbusters in his adaptations of "300" and "Watchmen," but quickly petered off once he started writing his own screenplays and began adapting more popular properties like "Man of Steel."

With his latest DC Comics adaptation, you can tell Snyder was told by studio executives to soften his tone, inject a bit of humor and essentially remake "The Avengers." Unlike the nuclear catastrophe that was "Batman Vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Justice League" actually has a sense of levity to it and is comparably brief in length at a mere two hours.

Snyder's directorial touch is improved by reducing the bloat and self-serious attitude. Yet Snyder still plays by the rules and refuses to go beyond the conventional. Even more annoying is the film's corny

sense of humor, which is felt through forced banter and face-palm-worthy jokes.

Much like "The Avengers," Snyder assembles the iconic DC Comics team of superheroes quickly and efficiently. Instead of overloading the film with an abundance of characters, Snyder only includes a greatest hits roster of Justice League superheroes. Ben Affleck remains a dull and uninspired Batman iteration, clearly stealing Christian Bale's gravelly vocal work and acting as brooding as possible.

The film's scene-stealer is, unsurprisingly, Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), having emerged as an empowering image for young women everywhere after her origin story hit screens over the summer. It's a shame we don't get more of her, as she slays every scene she's in with fiery energy and infectious charisma.

We get a few fresh faces to the DC cinematic universe as well. Jason Momoa's Viking-like stature and intimidating expressions work in his favor in playing Aquaman, as he carries around a pitchfork everywhere and scowls at everyone in sight.

The Flash (Ezra Miller) is mainly utilized to crack jokes and be a smart-ass throughout, acting as a vehicle for comic relief. His only significant character trait is his light and flamboyant attitude and he lacks any emotional depth.

Cyborg (Ray Fisher) is obviously the least developed character in this team of superheroes, so much so that it's hard to recall any significant details from his backstory. As the most tragic character in "Justice League," it's a shame there isn't more substance to Cyborg's narrative arc.

Cyborg's parents were scientists who performed technological experiments on him after he suffers a critical injury, his dad replaces half his body with cybernetic limbs. As he struggles for affection from his parents, he has to sacrifice his physical well-being to protect the rest of the world.

Batman meets with each member of the Justice League and asks them to join his team, inspiring obnoxious and silly banter among the superheroes. As the Justice League begin to get to know each other, they begin feuding with Steppenwolf (Ciaran Hinds), a bland and forgettable villain masked in a blob of CGI effects. As its main conflict takes shape, the film gradually goes through the motions of typical superhero-movie fare in predictable fashion.

Snyder's attempt to liven the usually dreary mood in his films is a worthy effort, but "Justice League" ultimately becomes like any other comic-book movie of its kind, missing any distinctive qualities to make it stand out from the rest of the crowded superhero cinematic universe.

MUSIC REVIEW

Björk finds her heartbeat in the digital realm on 'Utopia'

DREW NOVAK

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Björk doesn't do anything half-assed. The implosion of her marriage to artist Matthew Barney resulted in 2015's "Vulnicura," a soul-crushingly dark album that can be viewed as a woman's public mourning of a failed relationship as much as a collection of forward-thinking alternative music.

But Björk is ready to be happy again, and the Icelandic icon isn't like the rest of us, content with a "girls' night out" to wash away past and current pain. No, Björk has taken stock of her own emotions — and the current social and political climate — and decided she's had enough, creating an insular work of pillowy beats and beguiling samples of birdsong.

She has jokingly described "Utopia" as her "Tinder album," and in a way that makes total sense. It's an album focused on developing human connectivity even as society seems to be tearing itself apart. It's a world where falling in love can happen by trading MP3s via the internet. To Björk, there is an almost divine pleasure in texting a crush, as in the harp-driven second single, "Blissing Me." It's a place

where moving forward is as much due to self-reflection as it is frank sexual expression about "oral anal entrances." She's formed an idyllic island escape, free from "the chains of the fuck-ups of fathers." And she wants to take us there with her.

While "Vulnicura" was all dour string arrangements and rumbling synths, Björk and co-producer Arca have made a soundscape of airy flutes and the pitter-patter of IDM rhythms. She leans heavily into that special accent of hers, trilling her "r"s like a jungle creature or stretching out sibilant "s" sounds until they tumble into the next syllable.

Lead single, "The Gate," sounds especially sparse when compared to the lush sounds surrounding it, a trip into outer space soundtracked by medieval melodies and a paean to the healing power of love. Album centerpiece "Body Memory" is something of a Björk manifesto, 10 minutes of off-kilter drums and choirs while she waxes poetic about destiny, romance and sex.

At this point it's obvious she has shaken off any trappings of traditional pop music. There are few choruses and no immediate hooks that would grab a passerby. That may sound difficult to the casual fan, but it's an album that truly commands the listener's attention. You don't play the album in the background while cooking dinner;



PHOTO COURTESY ONE LITTLE INDIAN RECORDS

You put on your best headphones and devote yourself entirely to its 71-minute runtime.

We need Björk more than ever in a post-Trump climate. Fear and anger govern so many of us lately, but she shows us something better waits for those willing to make it. "Imagine a future and be in it," she tells us on album closer, "Future Forever." "Your love is already waiting. You're already in it."

ART REVIEW

New art exhibit combines maps and sea creatures to dazzling effect

NICK RUDOW

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Some might be surprised to learn that geographic maps and whales pair so well together in an art piece, but that's exactly the case with Jolene Brink and Linds Sanders' new art exhibit, "Water Maps," opening Dec. 1 at E3 Convergence Gallery. Combining sea creatures, a variety of maps and splashes of color, Brink and Sanders created pieces that both dazzle and intrigue, capturing a distinctive approach to art.

Brink and Sanders have been developing the exhibit since February. The two secured their exhibit venue a month later and have been developing pieces for it ever since, creating a total of 15 pieces each.

"I thought to myself, 'I like maps and Linds likes whales so we should bring those together in some way,'" Brink said.

Brink received her MFA in poetry in May 2016 from the University of Montana, where she became interested in historical maps and geology.

Brink uses several different historical maps from around the world and lays them on top of each other to create transparency using wax and paper. Brink said layers are the most common element tying her work to Sanders'.

"I want to have as many layers as possible in my art," Brink said. "When I'm layering, the transparency and illegibility of the words on my piece is really interesting to me."

One of the biggest influences on Brink's work is the writing of poet Dan Beachy-Quick.

"His exploration of environmental themes in his poetry has really inspired me," she said.

While Brink uses mainly raw materials such as maps and documents, Sanders uses paint, ceramics, clay and even beeswax in one of her pieces.

Sanders graduated from UM with a journalism degree but spent most of her time at the art school.

"I was in the art school so much that people began to think I was getting my BFA there," she said.

Sanders is putting together several coral reef pieces made with ceramic material and painting jellyfish and whales over various writing samples laid on wood panels. She will also be selling homemade necklaces and various small art pieces at the opening reception.

"I wanted to make something people can bring home with them that would be affordable to the average college



PHOTO COURTESY JOLENE BRINK

student," Sanders said.

Sanders said accessibility is always her biggest priority.

"I hope people will enjoy the exhibit but also feel like they can place themselves there in the art piece," she said.

Sanders has long pictured whales over Montana landscapes and wanted to bring that to her art pieces somehow.

"I snorkel in Montana lakes often and I've always hoped that I'll discover a whale in the water someday," she said.

Brink said she would have never used sea materials in her pieces but was influenced by Sanders to incorporate them into her art.

"I want my art to make people be in awe the same way history and geography makes me be in awe," Brink said.

Sanders said she has also been influenced by Brink's work, adding multiple layers to her own material. Sanders uses historical documents and maps layered throughout each other on wood panels while sea creatures are painted on top.

"I splash water on top to give the piece texture and make streams of color look more like rivers," Sanders said.

Sanders' travels have largely influenced her art, citing tropical islands as a visual element.

Brink's transparent map pieces and Sanders' sea creature-filled pieces make for a beautiful and effective pairing that's perfect for any arts fan looking for something unlike anything done before.

"Water Maps" will open with a reception at the E3 Convergence Gallery on Friday, Dec. 1, from 5 to 9 p.m. The event will feature live music from Butter Behemoth.

SPORTS PREVIEW

Kaimin Predicts: What to expect this men's basketball season

The Kaimin sports staff sat down to answer a few questions about the rest of the men's basketball season. Here's what they had to say.

THE GRIZ HAVE ALREADY BEAT PITT AND GAVE PENN STATE A SCARE. WITH THREE MORE GAMES AGAINST POWER 5 TEAMS ON THE SCHEDULE, HOW MANY WILL THEY WIN?

JACKSON WAGNER: I think the Griz pick up one more win. Head coach Travis DeCuire has always made these big non-conference games a focus, and Stanford already lost to Eastern Washington and Portland State. Another Big Sky loss may be on the way for the Cardinal.

LUCAS AILPORT: I can see Montana picking up wins against two shaky Pac-12 teams in Stanford and Washington. If the Griz want to show Big Sky foes what they've got, then knocking off at least one of these teams will be crucial.

THE GRIZ HAVE 30 TOTAL GAMES THIS YEAR. WHAT WILL THEIR FINAL RECORD BE? (16-16 LAST YEAR, 21-12 THE YEAR BEFORE)

JW: DeCuire won 20-plus games in his first two years, and this team has the talent to do it again. I think the Griz go 22-8.

LA: High expectations are starting to arise for Montana basketball, just like football. Look for DeCuire to have a



Griz forward Fabijan Krslovic attempts to evade Saskatchewan Husky defenders under the hoop in Dahlberg Arena on Nov. 6. The Griz defeated the Huskies 85-44 in the pre-season exhibition game. **PHOTO HOPE FREIER**

successful fourth-year at the helm. Griz go 21-9 this season.

WHO WILL LEAD MONTANA IN SCORING?

JW: This is a two-man race, and Ahmaad Rorie is probably the favorite, but I like how much Michael Oguine has grown offensively. With defensive focus on Rorie, I think Oguine edges him out.

LA: Jackson beat me to it. However, I would say Rorie

will lead Montana in scoring.

THE GRIZ HAVE SIX FRESHMEN. HOW BIG OF AN IMPACT WILL THIS GROUP HAVE?

JW: This mostly comes down to Karl Nicholas, who averaged the most time and points in the early season. I think we could see 10-plus points per game from the freshmen crew.

LA: There are two freshmen who fans will see quite often on the court this year for the Griz. Timmy Falls and Karl Nicholas will lead their freshmen group this season. I could see these guys averaging at least 12 minutes per game, if not more as the season progresses.

WHERE WILL THE GRIZ FINISH IN THE BIG SKY?

JW: The Big Sky is tough this year (Portland State, the No. 8 team in the preseason polls, led No. 1 Duke at half-time at the PK80 tournament), but the Griz will probably be a top-three team. Idaho and Montana State will finish ahead of them.

LA: The future is unclear for how the Big Sky will look this year. There are a lot of competitive teams in this conference, and anything is possible in college hoops, or in any sport for that matter. I see the Griz finishing somewhere in the top four, making a deep run for a Big Sky championship and a NCAA tournament appearance in March.

KAIMIN COLUMN

Views from the 406: Hauck isn't the quick fix

The rumors were swirling over Thanksgiving break. There was likely some dinner-table talk at your own home about who the next head coach of Montana football would be, and one name that certainly came up was Bobby Hauck.

Hauck led the Grizzlies from 2003-09, leading the Grizzlies to three national championship games. Montana made the playoffs every year that Hauck was head coach and the worst record he compiled in a season was 8-4.

The Big Sky championship came home to Missoula in every season during the stretch, and Hauck's teams won the Brawl of the Wild five times in seven games.

He's the popular choice for many fans, but if Griz Nation think Hauck can come in and immediately turn the Griz into a title contender right away, I think they will be in for a rude awakening.

The teams that Hauck coached at Montana were far different from the roster currently assembled, mostly by former coach Bob Stitt. The Griz are loaded with wide receiver talent and have a quarterback for the future in Gresch Jensen, who will be a sophomore

in 2018.

Jeremy Calhoun and Alijah Lee, who will both be seniors, have the talent to carry the rushing load. Still, the Griz won't have a dominant back like they did during Hauck's time. In 2008 and 2009, when the Griz made back-to-back title appearances, they did so behind Chase Reynolds, one of the best backs in Montana history. This roster doesn't have an every down back like Reynolds.

He will have far more to overcome defensively. In 2008, the Griz gave up just 17.8 points per game. In Hauck's last season in 2009, they allowed 19 points per game. The Griz allowed 29 points per contest this year.

Hauck put more of a focus on defense than Stitt, but in today's Big Sky conference it is difficult to be good, even average, defensively. The conference has changed since Hauck was around in 2009. The Big Sky is now home to some of the best passing offenses in the country, and it can be tough to dominate defensively week in and week out.

The Griz will lose Connor Strahm and James Banks, two-thirds

of their great linebacking corps, and some of their best defensive players elsewhere. Cornerback Ryan McKinley will be gone, as will No. 37 Tucker Schye.

In his last head coaching position, Hauck struggled. In five years at UNLV, he won just two games in four of the seasons. He hasn't had success in nearly a decade as a head coach.

He's still a special teams guru. As the special teams coach at San Diego State, his teams have 11 return touchdowns in 39 games, according to GoAztecs Stats. Griz fans can dream of Jerry Louie-McGee returning kicks in a Hauck system, but expecting a title contender because of what he did here in the 2000s is foolish.

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GRIZ SPORTS

Kaimin Sports recap: Thanksgiving break

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While many students headed home for Thanksgiving break, Montana's basketball teams remained in action in warmer weather while the Griz football program faced a major shake-up. Here's everything you may have missed.

Football

On Nov. 20 Skyline Sports broke news that Athletic Director Kent Haslam would not renew former football head coach Bob Stitt's contract.

Nearly a week after the announcement, rumors are already spreading as to who may be next in line for the head coaching job.

Some names being tossed around include former coach Bobby Hauck, Brent Pease, Ty Gregorak and Kevin Kane.

Hauck led the Griz from 2003-09, making three national championship appearances and winning at least a share of the Big Sky title all seven years. Griz fans are hoping he can return Montana to its former glory.

Pease played quarterback for the Grizzlies from 1983-1986 and was on the Montana coaching staff from '91-'98, serving as an offensive assistant coach and an offensive coordinator. He helped coach Montana to a national championship in 1995.

In 2016, Pease became the offensive coordinator for University of Texas at El Paso, but was fired 3 games into the 2017 season after his offense ranked 128th out of 129th in the FBS.

Gregorak is the defensive coordinator for Montana State and spent 12 seasons with the Grizzlies before heading to MSU in 2015. A highly respected coach in the Big Sky may be due for a head coaching job, but would he switch boats again?

Kane is the defensive coordinator at Northern Illinois University and seems to be looking for a promotion somewhere. His name has popped up for several head coaching jobs. Kane has no ties to Montana.

Men's Basketball

Griz basketball played a pair of games in the Progressive Legends Classic Regional Championship in Malibu, California. In the opening game on Nov. 20, the Griz led for most of the game and defeated Oral Roberts 69-64.

Montana then lost to the University of California-Santa Barbara, 80-73. A poor start led to a long night for the Grizzlies. UCSB got a quick jump out of the gate, storming to a 25-7 lead early in the first half.

The Grizzlies continued to make their way back throughout the game. Montana created runs of its own, going on a 20-7 run to finish the first half and a 19-6 run to start the



Former Griz head coach Bob Stitt speaks with the press after his team's loss at Bobcat Stadium on Nov. 18. PHOTO DAN FRANZ

second half, going 11-of-11 from the field.

Santa Barbara answered back later in the second half, scoring 13 straight points. The Gauchos destroyed whatever momentum the Griz had created.

Ahmaad Rorie led the team in his 40 minutes on the floor. During that time, Rorie scored 20 points, dished out six assists and added four steals.

Freshman Karl Nicholas had a big game, scoring 10 points and grabbing five assists. Nicholas was on the floor for 28 minutes, a career high for him.

Women's Basketball

The Montana women's basketball team spent most of its break in Cancun, Mexico for the Cancun Challenge. The Lady Griz lost both of its games by double digits.

Montana's 0-5 start is one of the worst starts to a season in program history, but a tough schedule so far has made things difficult.

The Lady Griz started the Cancun Challenge against Indiana State on Nov. 23. The Sycamores beat Montana 57-45. The Griz played well defensively, holding Indiana State's top two

scorers, Wendi Bibbins and Ashley Taia, to four total points.

Montana's offense killed its chances. The Griz shot only 30.5 percent and only made 2-of-15 shots from beyond the arc.

Jace Henderson matched her career high with 11 points, and she also recorded seven rebounds. McKenzie Johnston and Sierra Anderson each scored seven points.

The woes continued when Montana got bulldozed, 87-68, by No. 20 Marquette the next day, Nov. 24. The Lady Griz did come home with some momentum thanks to a big second half.

Despite a 20-point deficit at halftime, Montana fought back resiliently, shooting 53 percent in the third quarter. The Lady Griz also scored 25 points in the fourth quarter to outscore Marquette 44-43 in the second half.

Johnston and Madi Schoening both scored 11 points in the Griz loss. Hailey Nicholson came off the bench and added ten points.

Henderson earned a spot on the all-tournament team, scoring 17 points and grabbing 15 rebounds in the two games.