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10-17-2018

Montana Kaimin, October 17, 2018

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MONTANA KAIMIN

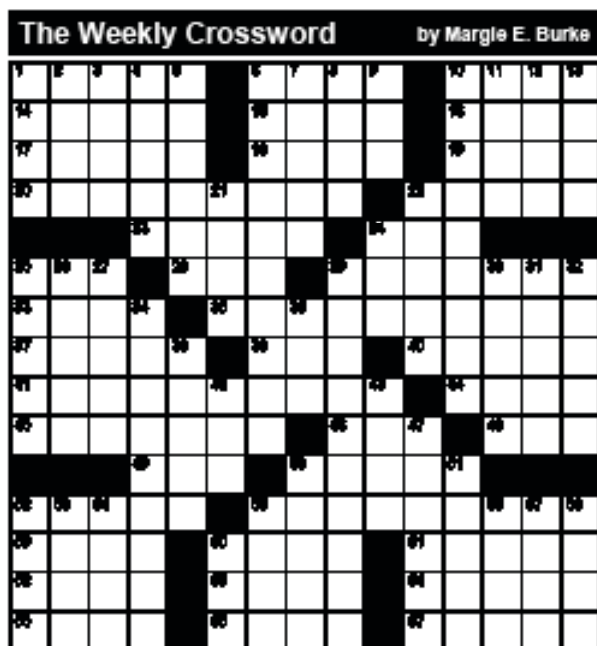
“I was 12 years old when I first reported the sexual and physical abuse I was enduring for nearly a decade. No one believed me.”



Issue No. 8 October 17, 2018

ON THE COVER

Illustration Marijka Devivier



ACROSS: Copyright © 2010 by The Puzzle Syndicate

- 1 Take place
6 Kind of game
10 "Gilligan's Island" tree
14 Helpless?
15 Blosser's adline
16 Minuteman's symbol
17 General Mills brand
18 Highlight it
19 Tiddly wigs
20 Bait, perhaps
22 Tread to the turkey
23 Rich in content
24 Loader
25 It may need a boost
28 Expensive wrap
29 Fit to be taken in
33 ____ long cyne
35 Interlinked series
37 VCR insert
39 Crib sheet user
40 Huntress
41 The "e" in e-commerce
44 Be like (with)
45 Washington post
46 Ban ____
48 Dishwasher cycle
49 Collision ght
50 City of Light
52 Sound from the stands
55 Something to live up to
59 Mass number
60 Where heroes are made
61 Robust
62 Huge
63 Mixed dish
- DOWN:
1 Quaker ____
2 Cardiologist's concern
3 Pigeon's place
4 Take a place from
5 Back-up pitcher
6 Dispute settler
7 Light-headed
8 Up to snuff
9 To this point
10 Topper made in Ecuador
11 Seasons
12 One of Seven Deadly Sins
13 Dole
21 Give praise
22 "Wild Bunch" leader
24 Chesapeake, e.g.
- 25 Roof overhang
26 Counting and deceit
27 Like days of yore
28 Ball-park figure
30 Headquartered
31 Engine unit
32 Diner side
34 Moral decline
36 Charged item
38 Badger's cousin
42 Scallish hero
43 Essence
47 Soldier's helmet, slangily
50 Crippling virus
51 Not fresh
52 Modest
53 Plover's overalls
54 Midcast title
55 Cosmos star
56 Brothers
57 Mine entrance
58 Strong cleaners
60 Slip into

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

ROBE	WATCH	PAGE
IBEX	AWARE	ELAN
POLD	RELIC	ROUT
EELDOM	ESTRANGE	
TUBER	PIONEER	
TWIDDED	CON	
NEW	TUNER	FUROR
AREA	PACER	MENU
RERUN	LOVER	FUN
TUN	REFOREST	
CHAOTIC	LILAC	
HELM	MAN	NETTLE
ALOA	BROKE	TOIL
PLAT	LOSER	ARM
OGLE	ELEGY	TYPE

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Difficulty: Easy

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

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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:

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

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KAIMIN EDITORIAL

Talking about the hard stuff

The thing about gendered violence is that it's ubiquitous.

Experiences of abuse, as well as conversations among women about how to navigate a world filled with the threat of assault, are relentlessly frequent. The addition of a national discourse about assault and harassment in the form of the #MeToo movement, while necessary, has been exhausting. So it's not surprising that it began to seem as though a kind of numbness was forming, a desensitization to the impact of assault.

But sometimes an event punctures through that fatigue, reminding us that the structure is formed by individual experiences, the universal made up of the particulars.

When the news broke that a series of allegations of sexual assault had been levied against then-nominee for the Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh, many of us on the Kaimin editorial staff considered our role as a student newspaper during a national story such as this. Did we have anything important or unique to say? Did any of our reporters?

When Dr. Christine Blasey Ford testified in front of the House Judiciary Committee on Sept. 28, claiming to have been one of Kavanaugh's victims, we found ourselves, again, paralyzed by the pros-

pect of trying to comment on this story.

We are a student newspaper; our goal is to write for and about UM's campus community. But people on campus were talking about this. Female students and faculty members, especially, were talking about Dr. Ford's allegations, her testimony, Brett Kavanaugh's response, all of it.

For many women, the experience of witnessing, and being asked to participate in, a "national conversation" about sexual assault is both disorienting and familiar. Gendered harassment and assault are structural problems, but the building blocks that make up cycles and structures of abuse are specific experiences, individual victims and victimizers.

This week, we let one of our own reporters tell a specific story, her story, of surviving sexual abuse and witnessing Ford's and Kavanaugh's testimonies. The best way we felt we could contribute to this conversation was to give space in the paper for the emotional reality experienced by many women on this campus during the week of Kavanaugh's confirmation.

LIKE IT? HATE IT? WISH WE WERE DEAD?

Email us your opinions at
editor@montanakaimin.com

FEATURE PHOTO



Tyler Pike, captain of UM Smoke Jump X, tosses a frisbee around a Whitworth opponent during a game on Oct. 13, 2018. UM's club ultimate frisbee team, hosted the Big Sky Gun Show tournament this weekend, which brought teams from around the west to Missoula. PHOTO SARA DIGGINS

THE ONE PLACE WHERE WE TRY TO BE FUNNY

BIG UPS & BACKHANDS

Big Ups to Trump for realizing he better not come any closer to Missoula than the airport.



Backhands to the snow; it's called global **warming**, dummy.



Big Ups to everyone hustlin' through midterms they didn't study for!

KAIMIN COMIC



Sexual assault gets a seat on the Supreme Court

As we've all seen in the news, the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court has been highly controversial. Several women came forward and accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault. A letter signed by over 2,400 law professors from all over the country was sent to the Senate arguing against his confirmation. Protests erupted, brandishing the slogan, "Kavanaugh." "Kavanaugh."

And yet, the confirmation of Kavanaugh came as no surprise to me. The dysfunctionality of our current Senate is a constant embarrassment abroad, and it shouldn't come as a shock to anybody that enough senators bent to party demands, rather than vote with responsibility or rationality.

Supreme Court nominees have been denied their seats for far less. In the early 1900s multiple nominees were denied seats because they had financial interests in the railroad. In 1987, Douglas Ginsburg withdrew his nomination when it came out that he had once smoked pot. You'd think an open FBI investigation would halt a confirmation in its tracks.

A self-interested United States Court of Appeals judge seeking a seat on the Supreme Court, accused of sexual assault, is obviously going to deny any allegations. Kavanaugh already holds

a highly prestigious position and his refusal to back down has put Dr. Ford through hell, and cost the country far more than it needs to spend on a nomination. The emotional tantrum displayed by Kavanaugh at the hearings showed that he definitely felt the heat. Yes, Kavanaugh, white men are finally being held accountable for their actions. Cry about it.

Our Montana representatives in the Senate worked at cross purposes. In an impressively cowardly, albeit unsurprising, move, Steve Daines decided to put the needs of the Republican Party ahead of those of women. In a public statement, Daines claimed that there is "no corroborating evidence to support this serious allegation... I stand with Kavanaugh."

Apparently Daines has forgotten that this nomination process isn't taking place in a court of law. We're not talking about a criminal trial here where proof is needed, we're talking about a job interview. Kavanaugh doesn't interview well at all. The fact that Daines doesn't consider Dr. Ford's testimony to be legitimate evidence is indicative of the value he places on women and their personal testimony.

Senator Tester was on the fence before the hearing with Dr. Ford, but wound up voting against Kavanaugh's nomination. Gold star for



GRAPHIC JACKIE EVANS-SHAW

you, Jon Tester. Thank you for being an ally to women, like everyone should be.

I believe Dr. Ford and the other women who have come forth. Inserting yourself into the national spotlight under the pretense that you were sexually assaulted requires nothing short of absolute bravery and character. In doing so, they stand to lose everything, and gain little to nothing.

Get out and vote in the next election. While the Senate confirms Supreme Court nominees,

the House impeaches them. There's evidence that Democrats will take back the House, and I can guarantee you that they will begin the proceedings to remove the scumbag Kavanaugh from our Supreme Court...given we all vote.



ETHAN NEWMAN
ethan.newman@umontana.edu
@e_newman_1995

GUEST OPINION

Can the governor of a forgotten state become president?

Recently, on an episode of the delightful NBC sitcom "The Good Place," a group of characters take a trip to an American-themed restaurant and find themselves sitting at a table that highlights Montana's contributions to culture. Those contributions include the Missoula-born Dana Carvey as the church lady on "Saturday Night Live," the sketch-artist rendering of the Unabomber (who, for the record, was from Illinois), and famed asshole Evel Knievel. It's telling the most recent reference is from over two decades ago.

This is unfortunate, because right now is an exciting time to be a Montanan. Not only have we finally surpassed Alaska for the highest suicide rate in the nation, but our governor, the honor-

able Steve Bullock, is running for president. Well, not officially... yet. Bullock has been surprisingly tight-lipped on his alleged plan to mount a presidential campaign to challenge Donald Trump in 2020. Eagle-eyed pundits, however, have noted in recent months Bullock has been quietly doing all the things one normally does before running for the highest office in the land.

He's already traveled to key primary states to shake hands with voters, met with the leaders of the Democratic party and (presumably) had his mistresses killed. With the run-up to the dumpster fire that's going to be the 2020 presidential election, the question isn't one of "Can Steve Bullock win the White House?" but rather, "Who in the hell is Steve

Bullock?"

Here in Montana, of course, we know him well. From his one term as the state's attorney general, to winning the governor's seat by beating Rick "Remember me?" Hill in 2012 and potato-faced goon Greg Gianforte in 2016, Bullock has come out on top every election he's competed in over the last decade. In 2016, somewhere near one quarter of Montanans who voted for Trump for president also voted for Bullock for governor. He's a red-state democrat who has found success reaching across the aisle without sacrificing his progressive ideals. He's pro-net neutrality, pro-choice and pro-breweries. He's the kind of guy you'd sit down and have a hoppy IPA with. But outside the Last Best Place,

what percentage of people could pick Steve Bullock out of lineup, let alone identify Montana on a map?

This is the uphill horse race Mr. Bullock finds himself in. He's a good politician from a beautiful state full of great people that, unfortunately, the rest of the country knows absolutely nothing about. Regardless of anyone's politics, however, I personally hope Bullock runs (and wins) for no other reason than to give the world a taste of Montana culture that's a touch fresher than early '90s SNL.

CHARLEY MACORN
charley.macorn@umontana.edu
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CONFRONTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence charge on campus adds to an increasing trend

PAUL HAMBY

paul.hamby@umontana.edu

@Logoriffic

A University of Montana student was charged Oct. 9 with four counts of assault against his girlfriend, with court documents saying he beat her with his fists and a belt, then threatened her with a gun held to her face. After being tipped off by an acquaintance of the victim, UM police arrested 24-year-old Rexford Allen Robinson at Pantzer Hall on campus.

Reports of domestic violence, along with sexual assault, are increasing across college campuses nationwide. This most recent charge is only one example of how survivors, bystanders, counselors and authorities attempt to navigate the disturbing complexity of cases of abusive relationships.

"People will say, when the stats keep going up, 'Is it really increasing or are the stats going up because we have better awareness?'" said Susan "Tootie" Welker, who has more than 30 years of experience as a social worker. "My response is, it's both."

Welker, 61, began working with survivors of sexual and partner assault in Gainesville, Florida, in the early '80s. After moving to Helena in 1989, she helped establish and operate Sanders County Coalition for Families, a non-profit organization that offers counseling, financial aid and emergency services for survivors. According to Welker, who has also advised on legislation for charges of domestic violence, addressing abuse in relationships requires both legal and cultural changes.

Following investigations by both the Department of Education and the Department of Justice that began in 2011, UM has been reforming its policies in documenting and addressing sexual and domestic violence. Since 2013, reports of domestic violence have increased almost every year, according to Annual Security and Fire Safety reports. The most recent safety report showed 18 cases at UM in 2017.

"When I look at that number, my first reaction is, 'There has to be more,'" said UM

law professor Andrew King-Ries.

"There are so many pressures on survivors to not come forward, to not go to the police, that the numbers that ultimately get reported are far below what's actually happening," he said.

According to an affidavit for the charges against Robinson, when UMPD officers initially spoke with the victim, she denied that any violence occurred.

Before coming to UM in 2002, King-Ries spent eight years as a prosecutor in Seattle specializing in cases of domestic violence. While there were cases of violence against men, in King-Ries' experience, the vast majority of his cases involved men abusing women in relationships that spanned every racial and socio-economic spectrum.

An article published by the *Journal of Education and Human Development* in 2016 reported that one in three women in the United States experience "rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by intimate partners within their lifetime," and 32 percent of all college students had experienced dating violence.

"It's stunning to me, the amount of violence against women that we condone and tolerate in our society. The fact that half of our population lives in fear of the other half, it's just crazy," said King-Ries.

Robinson's arrest came after UMPD spoke with both the alleged victim and the individual who reported the crime, a process that required sensitivity and nuance.

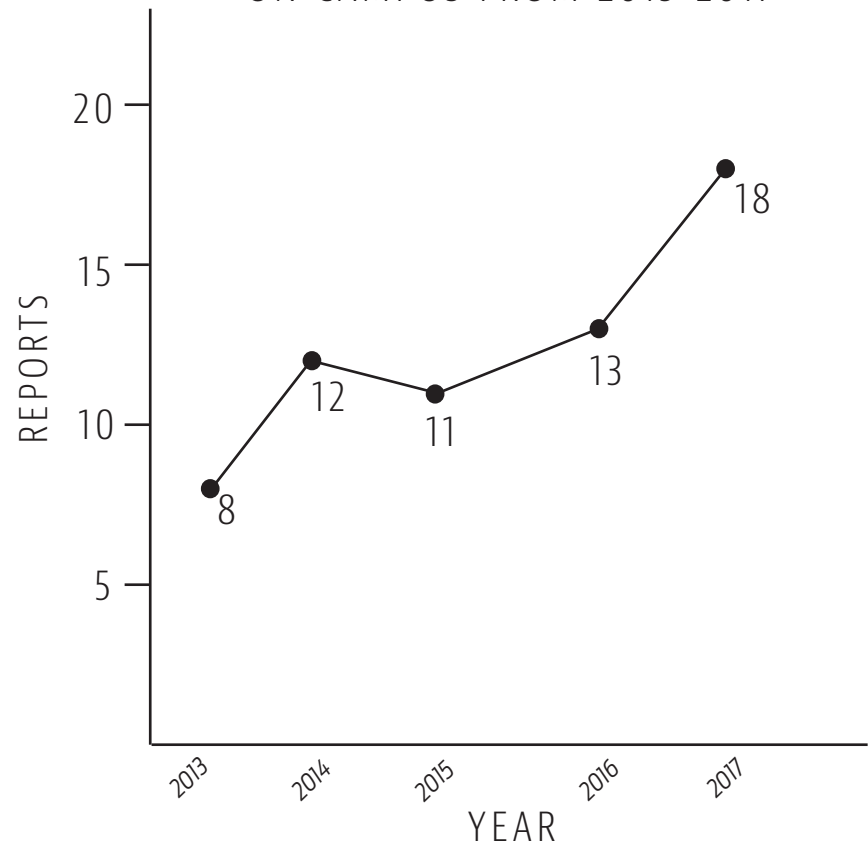
The victim and Robinson met at UM, and, according to court documents, the violence began Sept. 30. Many abusive relationships can go on for years before someone is physically struck.

"It doesn't come to violence further on down the road. Or, violence is years apart. It's always there in the background," King-Ries said.

In the Robinson case, court documents say most of the abuse occurred while he was drunk. Drugs and alcohol are associated with violence, but according to Welker, abusive behavior stems from something much deeper, at the psychological center.

The problem, according to both Welker

REPORTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS FROM 2013-2017



Source: University of Montana Annual Security and Fire Safety Reports

and King-Ries, arises from a dynamic in a relationship based on control, with physical violence only one method of working toward a common outcome: the domination over a partner.

"It's their need for affirmation, the need for sex, the need to feel powerful, whatever it is," said King-Ries.

The threat of violence hovers around a system of nonviolent intimidation. According to King-Ries and Welker, violence is most often a last resort.

"Typically, the partner will isolate her from her family and friends, take away the support system, take control of the financ-

es. And then there's also a lot of verbal and mental abuse before any physical violence," said Welker.

Court documents say after Robinson started whipping his victim with a belt, Robinson said the beating would stop if the victim signed a document guaranteeing she would not contact the police. According to testimony gathered by police, Robinson also held a gun to her face and said, "I own you." He then threatened to kill her if she reported the crime.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

According to King-Ries, batterers absolve themselves from responsibility by justifying their abuse. The victim is made to believe that she is the one bringing the abuse onto herself.

"It's atypical in making her sign a document, but it's totally typical that you place the responsibility of the abuse on the person who's being beaten," he said.

Welker has also contributed to legislation requiring 40 hours of counseling for those convicted of domestic violence. Although it is an improvement, too often the impulse to control through abuse is too engrained to treat. According to Welker, 75 percent of all men who come from a household where domestic violence has occurred repeat the offenses they grew up with.

"Very few ever can completely change,"

she said.

Although the report to UMPD resulted in an arrest a few days later, police officers do not have any authority to intervene until they have probable cause. That can come in the form of a testimony or visible signs of abuse. In the Robinson report, the acquaintance who informed police took photos of welts and scars on the victim's face.

"When we get called out, that's really our only opportunity to get them the resources they need," said UMPD Cpt. Ben Gladwin.

In recent years, Missoula and University officers have responded to every domestic violence report by separating the couple and assessing the situation for its potential to turn fatal. In every call, they are required to determine what Montana statute calls the "predominant aggressor" and immediately offer resources to the other partner. Resources can include connection with a victim's advocate, contact information for the

Sexual Assault Resource Center or a ride to a shelter.

"As a result of this training, more questions are asked by police and individuals are connected with the help of advocates when there is a report of relationship violence," said UM Title IX Coordinator Jessica Weltman.

According to Weltman, Curry Health Center has also begun screenings for signs of domestic violence. Although confidentiality prevents nurses and doctors from informing the Title IX office, they can provide the same information for advocates as UMPD.

The Student Advocate Resource Center prioritizes giving survivors the information, and letting them decide on their own how to proceed.

"There are a number of options we can help with, such as accessing confidential shelter, moving assistance, academic advo-

cacy, access to affordable medical care, and assistance with obtaining Orders of Protection," SARC Director Drew Colling said in an email.

Unlike other states, Montana law requires the decision to make an arrest remain with the police. According to Gladwin, this relieves the victim of the responsibility to decide whether or not to press charges.

According to a Missoulian article published after charges were brought against Robinson, UM officials responded to the situation by suspending Robinson and barring him from campus.

Regardless of the circumstances, both Missoula and UM have personnel and facilities capable of getting survivors the treatment they need, King-Reis said.

"There are so many people who want to help them. Most important, there are so many people who will believe them," he said.

IS IT A CULT?

Popularity or sustainability: Which is more important at UM FLAT?

SYDNEY AKRIDGE

sydney_akridge@umontana.edu

@sydney_akridge

The UM FLAT offers low rent for a small group of students in exchange for group collaboration on sustainability projects. With rent of just \$160 per semester, you may be wondering how to land a sweet gig like that.

Applicants are judged by the group that lived there the year before, so your taste in music and who you know might be just as important as your dedication to sustainability.

The UM Forum for Living with Appropriate Technology, or the UM FLAT, is a living learning community sponsored by the environmental studies program. It has a two-house property for students to live in each semester. Students can also take an internship each spring. The group hosts events at the UM FLAT Studio for student groups, classes and non-profit organizations.

A total of six graduate and undergraduate students live at the UM FLAT for \$160 each per semester. In exchange for low rent, the housemates work on projects and events on the

property. The FLAT is student-run and focused on its four pillars: developing student leaders, demonstration, education and community. The flatmates work on sustainable living practices experiments throughout the year. In the past, students have built a greenhouse, a chicken coop and a pellet stove.

"Last year, we built seven raised garden beds. We all worked on that project start to finish by fundraising, writing a grant proposal, designing the beds and planting them," said UM FLAT co-director Mary Ellis, 27.

Applications open every spring to live at the FLAT. Both graduate and undergraduate students can qualify. Applicants are asked to submit a resume and answer a number of questions, which vary year to year. About 20 students apply each year, Ellis said.

"They [the questions] are pretty far ranging. One of them will be like 'What kind of meals do you like to cook?' or 'What's your favorite book?' Then, we ask deeper questions like 'What experience do you have living in a group living environment?' We also want to know about the candidates experience with environmental education," Ellis said.



Mara Menahan, a former student resident at the UM FLAT, feeds the chickens in the morning on Oct. 11, 2012. Chickens provide eggs for the residents at the house.

The co-directors go through the applications and pick the top 10 to interview. All six flatmates participate in the interview, asking questions and deciding who will fill the empty spaces the next year. They look for students who are passionate about the FLAT's goals and who

will get along well with one another as a cohort.

"It has to be unanimous about who we accept. Everyone gets to vote. The people who will live there in the next year get a little more control over who gets accepted because they have to live with them," Ellis said.

Single mother overcomes personal, academic challenges

HELENA DORE

helenamay.dore@umontana.edu

@HelenaDore2

Sylvia Borstad, a 22-year-old political science and communication studies double-major, devotes her free time to things like serving as a student senator and campaigning for state higher education funding while preparing for law school. But just a couple years ago, she was homeless and raising her three-month-old baby boy.

"His dad strangled me a few months after he was born," Borstad said. "We went through three months of homelessness."

Borstad, a child rape and domestic violence survivor who grew up in Kalispell, described her struggle to find housing in Missoula after giving birth to her son.

"That was the hardest part," she said. "I didn't have the finances and good credit to find a good rental."

Borstad and her son moved into University housing in August 2016 after a conversation with her TRiO advisor, who told her she qualified under a federal program.

Now an ASUM Senator and an outspoken advocate for multiple University issues, Borstad is becoming more involved in the Missoula community. She could be seen speaking at the 6-Mill Levy Day of Action held by ASUM this September, or encouraging students from the College of Visual and Performing Arts to share their concerns during public comment at ASUM Senate meetings.

On the surface, it may seem like Borstad has everything she needs. She now has a home to live in. She is prepared to attend the UM law school next fall, appearing positioned to live out her dreams. But it isn't always easy for Borstad to balance working at the Forest Service, participating in political engagements and taking 24 credits. She has another important responsibility – raising her two-year-old son.

Single mothers at the University have a hard time paying bills because it's difficult to find a daycare that offers extended hours, Borstad said. Extended hours allow single



University of Montana student Sylvia Borstad, 22, kisses her son Troy, 2, who watches a cartoon on a tablet. In the last week, Borstad slept an average of 3 hours a night, waking up at 3 a.m. to study until 6 a.m. PHOTO DANIEL DUENSING

mothers who are students to work while they aren't going to school. ASUM child care doesn't offer them.

"He really did change me," Borstad said, in regard to her son. "As mothers, we are the ones that have to take time off of work if we're sick, when we're pregnant, or need to stay at home when our babies are born. Single mothers need a louder voice."

Because of her demanding schedule, Borstad said she has been sleeping for about three hours per night. She's unable to spend as much time with her son as she would like, she added.

"It would be just so much more helpful to

have that extra support there," she said. "You could actually maybe focus on getting A's instead of trying to cram studying in when you can."

Borstad said one of the biggest challenges single mothers face when going to school is finding the health care facilities they need, especially to treat anxiety and depression. Borstad said she even attempted to form a "Mommy and Me" group on campus so single mothers had a place to socialize.

"We often meet with single parents who are wanting additional support, and a place to process what they are going through," said

Mark Dadmun, a counselor at Curry Health Center. "It is understandable that stress, anxiety, and/or depressive symptoms can build up over time."

Dadmun added he is often impressed with single mothers' strength and resiliency.

"Self-care is important, yet it is difficult for single mothers and fathers because of the numerous demands and responsibilities of being a parent and a student."

When asked what motivates her to keep going, Borstad said it was her conscience.

"I can't sleep if I don't do this," she said. "I want it to be better for his generation."

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I

was 12 years old when I first reported the sexual and physical abuse I had been enduring for nearly a decade. No one believed me. When I was raped two years later, my virginity stolen by a 21-year-old man, I had already learned I wasn't going to be believed.

I felt horrible and ashamed of what had happened to me. I believed I was broken, that my body belonged to my abusers. And I was scared. I was scared of men who were older than me, men who were louder and bigger than me. Whenever I was alone with them, I was hypervigilant, on guard and hesitant to engage. If a man touched me, I'd jump. I was constantly afraid, because I was constantly unsafe.

I was abandoned by the people who were supposed to protect me. Teachers, cops and social services chose to turn their backs on me when I needed their help most. They accused me of lying for attention. Regarding the physical abuse, teachers told me I was overreacting, that sometimes children need to be taught a lesson. The first therapist I saw told me it was my fault my relative touched me because I dressed provocatively. I was 12. There were some people who believed me, but told me there was nothing they could do.

Life seemed hopeless and I thought there was no way out of my situation. Every night, I was neglected while the booze and cigarettes my abuser preferred took priority. I would sit in the house, terrified of how the night would go. Would the cops be called this time? Would I be sleeping alone or with an unwelcome addition? Would what was happening be ignored again the next morning?

I thought, since no one believed me, there was nothing to believe. I convinced myself that what they said was true, that I was overreacting, lying. I chose to ignore my trauma and in doing so, I chose to end my own life. I swallowed a bottle of Tylenol PM, five at a time, ten times. I put on makeup so I would look pretty when I was found dead. I woke up two days later with a tube down my throat, the remnants of the vomit on my hospital gown, and mascara caked around my eyes.

I convinced myself that what they said was true, that I was overreacting, lying.

I was 13, isolated and scared. I had internalized the abuse as something wrong with me, something I couldn't talk about. An ambulance took me to Shodair, a treatment center in Helena. In the two months I spent there, I tried to convince them not to send me back home. For the better part of my teenage years, I lived in psychiatric facilities in Montana and Wyoming. They were violent places with little funding and even less safety. I was too ashamed to talk about the abuse or the rape, too embarrassed to admit that I was afraid of every grown man who came near me. I was broken, and I thought I could never be fixed.



I was too ashamed to talk about the abuse or the rape, too embarrassed to admit that I was afraid of every grown man who came near me.



When I went through trauma therapy this summer, I finally started to understand I wasn't at fault for the abuse I'd suffered. As I started to realize I had nothing to be ashamed of, I thought about what I would tell my adolescent self. What would help a scared, lonely girl who took the blame and threw it on herself? How would I comfort her?

I'd tell her things that were scary to hear, but needed to be said. I'd tell her that what was happening to her was real, and that she was never at fault. I would remind her she wasn't alone, other people had similar experiences. Her story was valid. I would tell her that no matter how promising death may seem, there's hope in living. But even now, after nearly a decade removed from my trauma, I can't tell my younger self that she'd be believed if she came forward about her abuse.

But even now, after nearly a decade removed from my trauma, I can't tell my younger self that she'd be believed if she came forward about her abuse.

Like so many of you, I watched Dr. Christine Blasey Ford speak before the U.S. Senate on Sept. 27, and I recognized what had happened to me as a kid in the face of a grown woman. She was under attack, accused of lying, manipulating and seeking attention, everything most trauma victims experience when trying to recount what happened to them. I knew Ford was brave for what she was doing, but I couldn't bring myself to have hope she would be believed. I knew better.

During testimony from Brett Kavanaugh, then just a nominee but now a sitting justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, I had to stop watching every few minutes. I couldn't bear to listen to the senators who coddled him or the senators he yelled at — "I don't know, have you?" he spat in response to a question about being blackout drunk from Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar, who has written about growing up with an alcoholic dad. I couldn't stand to see him believed.

The hearing brought back the same fear I'd felt about my abuser and my rapist. The senators who so willingly believed Kavanaugh reminded me so much of the social workers who never believed me. Watching his testimony, I was afraid of losing all hope and I was afraid of the men who took it: the men with power, the men who will do whatever it takes to get what they want, who scream and shout down women. Those are the men who terrify me, and that is the type of man Brett Kavanaugh is. You can argue that he's innocent until proven guilty, but nearly every abuse survivor can recognize his behavior for what it is.

The hearing brought back the same fear I'd felt about my abuser and my rapist.

When Kavanaugh was confirmed by the closest of margins, I was at work. I sat on the bathroom floor and sobbed. I felt powerless, as I'm sure many women feel right now. I felt invalidated, like I had as a kid when told I was lying. I felt like nothing I could say about my trauma would matter. I was hopeless, thinking if things hadn't improved in a decade, they never would. It's horrible to realize that women of any age can be assaulted and still won't be taken seriously. It enrages me.

It's horrible to realize that women of any age can be assaulted and still won't be taken seriously. It enrages me.



My experience with trauma is different from what happened to Dr. Blasey Ford. I know that. I didn't have to sit before the world and talk about my abuse, only to be ridiculed — mocked by the president of the United States — for being sexually assaulted. I didn't receive death threats. Teenage Brett Kavanaugh didn't try to rape me and then laugh about it in my face.

...I didn't have to sit before the world and talk about my abuse, only to be ridiculed — mocked by the president of the United States — for being sexually assaulted.

So why am I reacting to his confirmation as if he did? Why are so many women so fucking mad? Because Kavanaugh's confirmation to the Supreme Court is indicative of a larger problem within our country, one that's only getting more pervasive. It's the problem that spawned the #MeToo movement. It's the protection of men from the sexual assault accusations women put forth. It's the first lady saying women need to have evidence to be taken seriously, disregarding the fact it can take survivors of assault years to come forward for fear they won't be believed. It's an increasing fear among women that men cannot be trusted.

Can we prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Brett Kavanaugh attempted to rape Dr. Christine Blasey Ford in 1982? No. Just like I don't know if I could prove I was abused and raped as a child in front of a bunch of senators. But the anxieties I suffer from, that Dr. Ford and all other traumatized women suffer from, don't come from nowhere. The fear of large crowds, of being touched and being trapped, these are fears we have for a reason. They stem from the trauma we suffered, the trauma we were forced to deal with alone for years because society and rape culture told us that we were at fault and wouldn't be believed. And Kavanaugh's confirmation is a reminder that rape culture will persist. A woman

and her trauma is now perceived as the enemy of a man's career.

I have no compassion for people who aren't outraged. This is not a time for devil's advocacy. Dr. Ford should have been believed. I should have been believed. When women and girls finally come forward to report, those reports should be investigated — thoroughly. Women who speak about their trauma need to be taken seriously. What this confirmation accomplished was to reinforce how our government intimidates women into not reporting and invalidates women who have been assaulted.

I want to give you an uplifting ending, but I can't, because it's not over. Will it ever be over? I'm scared as hell, just like every victim of sexual abuse in the country. A man with a predatory past just received a lifetime appointment to the highest position in our country's judicial system, and I'm among those who intimately understand what that means. I now feel like I need evidence to prove my trauma. But there is none. It was all a decade or more ago, the statute of limitations is up, and all physical evidence has been erased. All I have is what I say happened, and that no longer feels like enough.



All I have is what
I say happened,
and that no
longer feels like
enough.

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@kailyn_mercer



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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Listening with purpose to that Lakebottom Sound

NOELLE HUSER

noelle.huser@umconnect.umt.edu
@NoelleHuser

Musician Naomi Siegel was listening, but she could not hear. The music was an afterthought as she hopped from club to brewery, loud bar conversations drowning out the live bands' playing. Two years ago, the trombonist, composer and music educator was new to Missoula and missing Seattle, her "musical home." She had grown accustomed to a culture of valuing live music with spaces designed for audiences who are there to listen to the music and not chat. It was these intentional listening experiences that gave her confidence in her craft. There, she released her debut album, "Shoebox View," and developed experimental skill, playing in a variety of musical groups.

After a year of desperately searching for a music hub in Missoula, she launched her own organization, Lakebottom Sound, in 2017, with a focus on being more intentional in the way we listen. Siegel, 34, curates shows in venues conducive to fostering a deeper connection between the musician and the audience. She has worked to nourish the value of live music in Missoula with concerts, education and jam sessions.

Lakebottom Sound's workshops range in focus and bend genres, from jazz to improvisation and composition. Participants find new approaches to music making and performance through creative exercises and a toolbox of techniques. Siegel teaches a four-week workshop on Monday nights at Wave and Circuit, titled "Improvisation is for Everyone." Here, she encourages students of all abilities to take risks and practice non-judgement, "getting in touch with [their] inner muse... while listening to [themselves] and others."

Lakebottom Sound also stages Free Sessions on the first Sunday night of each month at Imagine Nation Brewing. Siegel created the sessions with fellow local musician and former Seattleite, 34-year-old Bill Kautz. The two met while playing at week-



Naomi Siegel practices during a rehearsal for a community chorus Pura Vida on Feb. 7, 2017. PHOTO TAILYR IRVINE

ly jam sessions in Seattle. They moved to Missoula simultaneously and created their own version of an all-age, free improvisational session. Each session is curated by a different artist who opens with a 30-minute dialogue, presentation or performance of their choice. The result is an educational and experimental "incubation ground for people to present new projects and push themselves," Siegel said. The sessions are multigenerational, with elementary schoolers, college students and senior citizens in attendance.

"These sessions are unique in that they open you up to pure expression through a language we can all understand, no matter who you are or where you come from," said Isabel Quintero, a music student at the University of Montana.

They draw musicians of all kinds, Siegel said. "I wanted to create a place where the country musicians could play with the

rock musicians, could play with the jazz musicians, could play with the University students."

The Lakebottom Sound Series is the main programming feature of the organization, cultivating a rich musical environment by bringing diverse music to Missoula. Siegel never wants to have a show that features only cis men, because that is "the narrative we see everywhere still."

Siegel works towards systemic shifts in our music culture as an advocate for intersectional gender justice. "To create art and improvise is to be vulnerable and to take risks. Then you add these systemic, cultural norms enforced day in and day out and they can be paralyzing and off-putting for a lot of people." She said there is a national conversation among musicians about marginalization that is happening now more than ever. Kautz said Siegel has elevated the concept to many Missoulians' aware-

ness. "She is very intentional about who is represented, what style is represented and making sure there is diversity," he said.

Siegel believes it's important to have shows that feature a mix of genders and ethnicities. "I just think it's really important for me as a booker to uplift these voices. Maybe they wouldn't be able to come to Missoula if it weren't for me bringing these people out here," she said.

Lakebottom kicked off its second concert season in September with En Canto, a Brazilian Forró band that sparked a dance party at Free Cycles. Next up is Allison Miller's Boom Tic Boom. The jazz drummer, composer and educator is based in New York City and will perform with her band Sunday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Montana Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Siegel is partnering with the jazz program at UM where Miller will teach workshops.

ALL EARS

Fringe Class

NOELLE HUSER

noelle.huser@umconnect.umt.edu

@NoelleHuser

A woman in large hoop earrings sings into a microphone, collapses on the ground of the Zootown Arts Community Center basement and bends over backwards in a diva-tastic fit of glitter.

This is Fringe Class, a four-piece from Portland, Oregon fronted by Madi Gold. Showgoers will experience a spirited end-of-the-world dance party with robust femme vocals and unhinged synth. Fringe Class is named after a social class with the resources to live luxurious lives, but instead choose to live reckless and bohemian lifestyles. Its disco sound has elements of electro-punk and new wave and is full of post-modern angst, dissatisfied with a consumerist world of lost identity. The group's 2013 EP "Fringe Class Forever," is simpler with an '80s feel. Its fervent title



track howls existential lyrics, "Your heart is a burning desire of the places and people you've been." And 2015's "Fringe Class Begins" EP parallels loneliness and love. "Stay Touch" pleads for independence in a codependent relationship with the lyrics "You're upset that I'm alone, upset that I'm not home." "Protector" is an anthem about safeguarding your own heart. In "Parakeet," Gold's silky voice cuts through somber tones, glowing through melancholic synth. "Lie\$\$\$\$" is a feverish tune that overwhelms in a whirlwind of auto-tuned vocals. "Fabulous" taunts escapist lyrics, "Look at me, I'm fine." Each elongated "ooh" in the song carries you deeper into a sparkling electronica drama.

Fringe Class plays at the Union Ballroom as part of Ghost Carrot Record Fest on Saturday, Oct. 20.

Say Hi

NOELLE HUSER

noelle.huser@umconnect.umt.edu

@NoelleHuser

Coming soon to a living room near you, Say Hi will showcase its crafty indie rock for anyone feeling the midterms grind. The home-recorded, Seattle-based pop project was formed by Eric Elbogen in 2002. In February 2017, he announced its retirement, instead planning to focus on Werewolf Diskdrive, his "experimental-art/sci-fi rap project" with a cult following.

But in June 2018, he announced a tour and an 11th album stating, "a centaur named David Bowie came to me in a dream. I could tell, before he even said it, that he was going to try to convince me to revive Say Hi."

Elbogen creates his own intimate uni-

verses to share with his fans, each album varying thematically, like 2015's vampire-themed "Bleeders Digest." His latest album, "Caterpillar Centipede," breaches his typical fantastical explosions of quirkiness with more simplistic subject matters. "Sweaters" has swelling guitar and lustful piano with quaint lyrics, "I want you to be my apple tree, I want you to be my bee hive queen... I want you to be my layers of sweaters, I want us to get lost in the woods."

The album is comforting with full bodied fuzzy guitar in songs like "Every Gauge is on Empty." Or take the grinding synth pop of "Green With Envy" that turns angst into a therapeutic dance party. In "Neon Signs", Elbogen sings "We're gonna turn up the music and let our hands wave," over breezy, buoyant keys. With a well-worn charm, he leads you through a dreamscape, but stays rooted in his humanly approach to love.

Say Hi will play Wednesday, Oct. 17 at the Hockey House in Missoula at 7 p.m.

LOCAL TALENT



PHOTO DANIEL DUENSIG

The Delusional Artist

EMMA SMITH

emma2.smith@umontana.edu

@3mm4sm1th

On the corner of north Higgins Avenue and Broadway, 33-year-old UM graduate Lillian Nelson paints a colorful and mountainous Japanese style scene which wraps around a traffic box. Nelson is one of four artists to contribute to the Traffic Box Signal project by the Missoula Public Arts Committee.

"Each time I do the traffic boxes, it's a new adventure," Nelson said. "With this box, I had to deal with very cold, windy, rainy weather, which slowed down the painting of course. I also had to deal with a man that started trying to literally protest my art as being 'genocidal art,' because I was painting a culture that wasn't 'American,' whatever that means."

Nelson was born and raised in Montana and started painting with watercolor when she was 13. By the age of 16, Nelson was assistant teaching.

"I feel art has run in my veins since birth, or very close to that," Nelson said. "It's the only profession I've ever wanted to do or strived towards. I practiced constantly growing up. I love being able to just grab a pencil and paintbrush and out flows the thoughts of my brain as a physical entity."

Nelson described art as her way of communicating, allowing her to process her thoughts and

emotions. She uses it as a form of meditation and to tell stories.

"I'm on the autistic spectrum," Nelson added, "so communication, particularly with emotions, has never been easy. I use art to digest and tell my inner thoughts and opinions, and also tell stories."

After graduating from UM, Nelson started a family. She returned to art through receiving an opportunity to run the E3 gallery downtown and forming connections with other artists in the community.

"It forced me to digest all that I learned and reevaluate what I actually wanted to do with art and what my place was in the art community," Nelson said.

Nelson calls herself "The Delusional Artist" as a way to admit her ego but also acknowledge that she may not always have a firm grasp on herself or her art.

Her advice to young artists is to remain open, especially to feedback.

"There will always be someone technically better than you," she said. "Just realize you will always be learning and growing, so take every opportunity to humbly learn and receive criticism with grace."

Nelson has plans to contribute some comic work with Oneshi Press and is presenting at a Radius Gallery show from Jan. 27 to March 2.

MUSIC Q&A

Cherub's Jason Huber wants to know what to chug in Missoula

LJ DAWSON

laura.dawson@umontana.edu
@LJDawson0

Electro-indie duo Cherub (Jordan Kelley and Jason Huber) kicks off its Free Form Tour this month. We caught up with Huber before the band stops in Missoula on Nov. 6 and learned nothing beats some Pedialyte and a good Key lime pie.

MONTANA KAIMIN: Did either of you ever consider doing anything other than music?

JASON HUBER: Jordan and I both met when we were going to school for music production. There really isn't much else that we can see ourselves doing with our lives. We do make music because we don't really know what else we are good at.

MK: Both of you have been touring and producing music together for almost 10 years now. What has kept you guys together?

JH: It's pretty much we live together, and we've had a really long lease. So once this lease is up we're done — Cherub is done. I am teasing. We live together. We work together. We play together. If there is ever any disagreement, it immediately gets addressed so there are no hard feelings. It has kept us on good terms for years now.

MK: What's inspiring Cherub's music right now?

JH: We obviously are not as wild, deviant or angry as we are in some of the songs. We are not each one of those magnified characteristics or emotions every single day. We take the things we live in our daily lives and embellish them and turn them into something more. Traveling around the world and the day to day of everyone's life is our inspiration

MK: What inspired the visuals of your most recent music video, "Want That?"

JH: "Want That" was the first video that I directed. The song made me have this crazy idea of showing up at the studio and turning into mannequins and dancing around with them. The inspiration came from the



Jordan Kelley, right, and Jason Huber. *CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS*

grandiose late '90s pop and hip-hop videos like Missy Elliot and Busta Rhymes — in your face, very bright and vibrant.

MK: What are you most excited about in your new releases?

JH: I am very excited that there is a whole lot more of it. We have well over an album's worth of material collected since the last record we released. But instead of putting it all out at once, we decided to go one or two songs at a time to allow us to focus on each song creatively — put the energy behind it that we have been feeling in the studio.

MK: What does Cherub hope listeners take away from your songs?

JH: If somebody is going to sit down with the music and spend some time with it, I would hope that they can find something that resonates with them. I hope they listen long enough to realize that we write for a little bit of everything because we are inspired by the world around us. We do not try to fit things into one box, we just put out what feels right.

MK: What is Cherub most stoked for now that you are touring again?

JH: Well it has been almost two years since we have been on a proper Cherub tour, so just to be back on road, in the bus, playing shows every night and seeing everyone dancing around. That is the best feeling in the world. That is the reason why we wake up in the morning.



MK: What does Cherub have to have when they show up to venues while on tour?

JH: I ask for a couple of things of Pedialyte because that is the ultimate pro-move: drinking some Pedialyte before you sweat out the liquor from the night before. It is a nice replenishing beverage.

MK: Does Cherub have any weird rituals while on tour?

JH: We did get a Key lime pie for every Friday show for a while because it was a nice checkpoint in the week for the crew and often you forget what day of the week it is. Jordan typically goes and sings with his French bulldog, George, before the show to warm up. We do "Chug for Merch" where we get a local non-alcoholic substance, and make people chug things like Maple syrup in Vermont, for merch booth prizes. What

should we chug in Missoula? Shout us out on social media for what we should chug in Missoula.

MK: Is Cherub excited to return to Missoula?

JH: The first time we ever showed up to Missoula, we were driving from Colorado all the way to the West Coast. We stopped through on the way on a Monday night. We were playing with a band we had never heard of before, playing a club we had never heard of before, playing in a town we had never been to before and had absolutely no friends in. So we had no idea what to expect, and we ended up having the best time ever. It is one of those remarkable reminders to never sell anything short, never judge a book by its cover. We always look forward to Missoula.

TURN UP THE TURNOUT

Fans are still favoring football – and it shows

CASSIDY ALEXANDER
@cass_dizzle
cassidy.alexander@umontana.edu

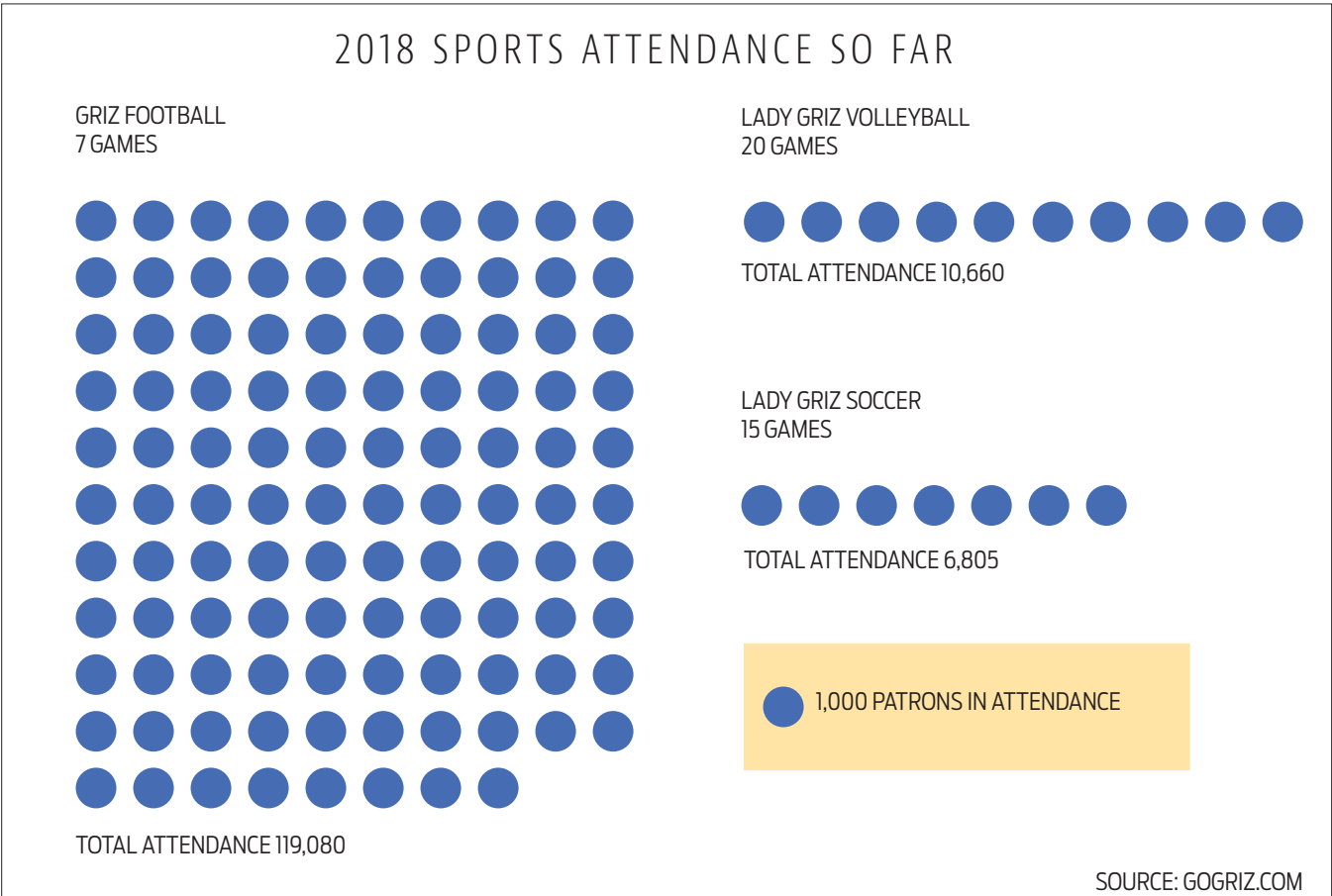
When Washington-Grizzly stadium is packed to its maximum capacity, the number of people inside could be the seventh-largest city in Montana. This Griz Football season, an average of 97 percent of the 25,217 seats available in the stadium have been filled during home games.

Griz football attendance is about 119,000 so far this season for all home and away games combined. While students can attend all Griz sports games for free, the turnout for other sports is hardly comparable.

Lady Griz soccer has an average attendance of 417 for home games. This season, approximately 6,800 people have watched Griz soccer at both home and away games.

On average, 610 people attend home Lady Griz volleyball games. This season, about 10,600 people have turned out to watch Griz volleyball at home and away.

University of Montana Athletics does not publish attendance for Men's and Women's cross country meets. Griz football is also the only male-exclusive sport in the fall season.



PLAYING	DATE	LOCATION	LIVE ON GOGRIZ.COM
Women's Volleyball at Portland State, 8 p.m.	Thursday 10/18	Portland, Oregon	√
Women's Soccer at Portland State, 2 p.m.	Friday 10/19	Portland, Oregon	
Club Baseball Doubleheader at Montana State	Saturday 10/20-21	Bozeman, Montana	
Women's Volleyball at Sacramento State, 2 p.m.	Saturday 10/20	Sacramento, California	√
Women's Soccer at Sacramento State, 1 p.m.	Sunday 10/21	Sacramento, California	
Women's Basketball vs. Maroon-Silver Scrimmage, 5:30 p.m.	Tuesday 10/23	West Auxilliary Gym	
Women's Volleyball at Montana State, 7 p.m.	Tuesday 10/23	Bozeman, Montana	√

HAMMER TIME

Mykaela Hammer pushes Griz volleyball to a new level

HENRY CHISHOLM

henry.chisholm@umontana.edu

@HenryChisholm

Needing three points to seal a fifth conference victory, Montana Grizzlies volleyball head coach Allison Lawrence called a timeout. The six Grizzlies on the floor trotted to their seats on the sideline and the rest of the team circled around them. Assistant coach Dana Cranston crouched in the middle.

"They're leaving zone one open," Cranston said.

Zone one is the back right corner of the court, the area often defended by the opposing team's setter. Redshirt-senior Mykaela Hammer, 22, painted a picture of what an error like that can do to an opposing team. She hit a pair of gym-quaking, cross-court kills that ricocheted off the hardwood and into the bleachers. When the defense backed its way into the corner to defend against a third, Hammer tapped the ball gently over the net and watched it drop into the middle of the floor, just out of reach of her opponents who sunflowered around it.

23. 24. 25. Ballgame.

With a 5-2 winning record, the Grizzlies are off to their best seven-game conference start since 1994 – and Hammer is a big reason for it. The 6-foot-1 outside hitter has scored the game-winning point in four of the five wins. And in every one of the seven matches, she's at least tied for the team-lead in kills. As the Grizzlies' lone fifth-year senior, with more than 50 starts under her belt entering her final campaign, that's her job.

"We tell her straight up, 'You have to perform. You have to execute under pressure and if you don't, it puts our team in a really bad situation,'" coach Lawrence said.

When Lawrence, who served seven years as an assistant coach at Montana, was promoted to head coach in early 2017, she groomed Hammer into the locker room leader. During Lawrence's first spring at Montana's helm, she and Hammer held weekly meetings to discuss how

the then-sophomore should handle her new role. The pair studied books on leadership, sparking conversations about different strategies and leaders in their lives worth emulating. Hammer said she's never been more confident.

"I've become more outspoken," she said. "I've become more of a cheerleader, while at the same time being very constructive with what we need to do. I'm not afraid to say that we need to produce better or do something differently."

In late September, Hammer won the Big Sky Conference Offensive Player of the Week award. It was the first time a Grizzly had been named the Player of the Week since 2014.

Hammer said she won because her teammates set her up in good situations, but her offseason work also played a part. She stayed in Missoula for most of the summer to work out. But she and Cassie Laramie, who is also a senior volleyball player for UM, traveled in Europe for two weeks, playing volleyball. Their team, organized by Bring It Promotions, was comprised of women from college programs across the United States, including Miami, California and North Carolina. Hammer was disappointed in her team's seventh-place finish. They beat teams from Italy, Hungary and the Czech Republic, but lost to English and Croatian squads. But the rest of the trip more than made up for it, Hammer said.

"It's something we've always kind of wanted to do, and we never really thought about doing it until this opportunity presented itself," Hammer said. "It was the best experience, and I wouldn't change it for the world."

Hammer hadn't visited Europe prior to the tour, but she'd seen plenty of the United States. She was born in Pittsburgh, but moved to Philadelphia when she was a toddler, then, 10 years later, to Arizona.

She's close with her family and credits her older brothers, Zach and Josh, for toughening her. Hammer has a tattoo on her left forearm that says "love for eternity," which matches her mother, LeDesa's.



Mykaela Hammer looks over her shoulder after scoring a kill for the Grizzlies in a victory over Eastern Washington University on Oct. 11, 2018. *PHOTO DONAL LAKATUA*

Another tattoo on her right shoulder blade reads, "Be courageous and be bold," a quote pulled from line 20 (which happens to be her jersey number) of a poem written to her by her grandfather, who passed away in 2011. Her father, Michael, is a "superhero," she said.

"My parents are both so motivating and inspirational for me," Hammer said. "They've definitely shaped who I want to be when I'm older. It sounds cliché, but they've shaped the love that I want and have, luckily."

Hammer, who has already earned a marketing degree this past spring, will gradu-

ate at the end of the semester with another in business management. In June, she'll marry former Grizzly offensive lineman John Schmaing. The plan is to stay in Missoula. She's already started her job hunt, while contemplating a move near a bigger city in the future.

But for now, Hammer's focus remains on leading the Grizzlies to their first Big Sky Conference tournament appearance since 2014.

"We have been fighting nonstop," she said. "We know we have the skill and the ability to do it, and we're just finally pushing ourselves."

GOT WOOD?

Preparations for UM Forestry's spring ball begin

Five months in advance of the University of Montana Foresters' Ball, student-foresters took to the chilly mountains to harvest timber for use at the annual ball, Sunday Oct. 14, 2018.

The University Forestry Club cut down timber from the Lubrecht Experimental Forest and sorted the fallen logs (poles) into cords.

"We're collecting the poles to build the Ball's building structure," forester Emily Onderbeke said. "We need 300 poles."

The forestry club members worked intensely, pairing in teams of two to three when moving the heavy timber to the cords. Within the first two hours, they had harvested 250 logs.

After a lunch break, the group split in two. The sawyers, or chainsaw crews, cut down timber while the others rested in preparation to carry the fallen poles.

Warming his hands by the group's fire, University of Montana junior Owen Oster said he felt optimistic.

"Getting the poles for the club, it's a great time. It benefits all of us," Oster said, removing his netted safety goggles from his eyes.

When the break ended, work quickly resumed. Foresters added timber to the piles. All told, the University Forestry Club reaped 350 poles, 50 more than the original goal.

The extracted poles can be seen creating the decoration and structures at the Foresters' Ball this spring.



Forester John Parcell saws off tails of timber during the Foresters' Ball lumber harvest on Oct. 14, 2018.



Andrew Mills and John Parcell are sprinkled with snow while scouting for appropriate trees to cut down. The timber collected from the trees was harvested in cords.



Kyle Carpenter looks away from a bright red flare prior to adding it to the fire. The foresters constructed a fire to keep warm during their breaks.



Workers' helmets roll about the bed of a University of Montana Forestry Club pickup truck. All club members were required to wear helmets to protect from falling timber.

PHOTOS AND STORY DANIEL DUENSING