IT’S NOT JUST MCGILL

Crumbling ceilings stand between students, staff and asbestos

STORY BY MICHAEL CAST
The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. It does not condone or encourage any illegal activities. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, “Qeymin,” that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means “book,” “message,” or “paper that brings news.”

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UM owes students answers and a plan after McGill closure. So far, it has neither.

Last Thursday, Feb. 7, I went to the informational meeting for students, faculty, staff and concerned parents affected by the closure of McGill Hall due to asbestos contamination. I stayed there for an hour. I listened as the expert they provided for us, Scott Rogers, spent more time asking the audience rhetorical questions rather than answering any he received.

I watched Rogers and the UM spokesperson present demur and defer and downplay the severity of the situation at every point, even as the questions became more pointed. I wondered why this was not important enough for Seth Bodnar to show his face. I asked my own question, imploring both Rogers and any UM representative to tell me how, after so much time undercutting the seriousness of the contamination, I can ever feel safe and secure going back into that building, I did not get an answer. I got another rhetorical question asked of me by Rogers, about what I'd been told so far about the contamination. My answer, then and now, is nothing.

As a student in my final semester of the media arts program, the only direct communication I have received about the asbestos contamination has been a couple emails informing me of the new classrooms I have to go to. The University so far has made no visible effort to reach out to media arts or health and human performance majors to tell them anything. Nothing about their risk of exposure, nothing about how we can continue our education through this disruption. Their silence has settled on this issue like so many asbestos particles in the McGill daycare.

It has been more than 50 days since asbestos was first detected in McGill, more than 20 since the surface tests in the preschool. I’ve had only one class not cancelled since they closed the building two weeks ago. I can’t access the equipment or specialized production spaces I need to finish my senior project. I don’t know how I’m going to finish out my last semester and graduate. I don’t know how much toxic material I’ve inhaled in the last three years. And no one from the University seems at all interested in answering my questions.

I left the meeting on Thursday, early, after an hour. Disgusted at all the non-answers that filled the room, sick of feeling like I’m screaming into a void. If I had more than one semester left, I think I’d be inclined to get up and walk out of this University early, too.

-John Hooks, Kaimin video editor

Anyone who has set foot on campus this winter is aware of the university’s appalling neglect of its own walkways. While the university doesn’t bother to hide its disdain for the safety of its own students, staff, and visitors, let us take a moment to acknowledge the ones who are really getting given the finger here: disabled people.

By allowing the campus to reach a state where even the able-bodied struggle to get around, the university has found an effective and inexpensive way of discriminating against anyone with mobility issues, among other types of disability. As if the lack of accessibility within many of the buildings wasn’t bad enough, the university has made it a challenge for many people to even set foot on campus. Let’s not treat the problem as an annoyance but as the clear case of discrimination that it is.

Hero LeMaster
Student

Seriously, shovel the damn sidewalks

ILLUSTRATIONS LINDSEY SEWELL | MONTANA KAIMIN
Stocked full with drinks, easy meals, baby food, food staples and hygiene products, the UM Food Pantry opened Feb. 1 to students in need.

Katherine Cowley, 22, is student coordinator for the pantry. She graduated in May 2017, with a bachelor’s degree in women’s, gender and sexuality studies and a minor in sociology, and is currently a graduate student studying public administration. Cowley worked on the food pantry in the fall semester for internship credits toward her master’s degree. For Cowley, working on the project isn’t just about helping other students, it’s personal.

Last spring, Cowley lost her home. Many people who helped her were other students, and many were people who were not even her friends at the time. “They just saw another student in need and saw what I needed because they have been there before, and they jumped in and helped,” Cowley said. Her goal is to show that no one needs to feel hopeless because other students care about the campus community.

“We recognize that basic needs and security is a massive problem among college students, but it’s not something that is addressed often enough and there isn’t enough information,” Cowley said. “If they don’t need to spend money on food, hopefully they can spend more money on other things, and it is one less stress, one less thing to take away energy or attention from school.”

When someone comes into the pantry, they will take part in an intake interview. All clients are logged into the pantry’s database to track how many times people are coming into the pantry. They are allowed to take what they need, the food is weighed.

The pantry is stocked with over 900 pounds from food drives including Can the Cats, Costco Night, Fraternity and Sorority Involvement food drive, and the Heart of Campus. It also has access to an account with the UM Foundation to order things from the Missoula Food Bank Network. Cowley said it has also received smaller donations and offers from faculty and student groups to do food drives.

In addition to food, the pantry offers connections to resources. Cowley is trained to help people fill out SNAP applications. They can also be pointed to housing and health resources.

“I am not just here to give you a couple of cans and kick you out of the door,” Cowley said. “I am here to make sure you have the resources to improve your life on the whole, not just make a can of soup for dinner.”

At its opening, Cowley said she gave about 10 tours of the pantry. A grand opening event for the food pantry will be held Tuesday, Feb. 12 from 2-4 p.m. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a silent auction, and drinks and snacks will be available. Cowley said that she hopes this event will garner attention for the pantry.

The main food pantry is behind the UC West Atrium Desk. It will be open Tuesdays from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This semester, Cowley will be the only student running the pantry.

In addition to the main food pantry in the UC, “Grizzly Cupboards,” self-serve locations, opened at the end of the fall semester in the TRIO Student Support Services’ offices, the American Indian Student Services’ offices, the Veterans’ Office and Missoula College.

The Basic Needs and Security Committee, including Cowley; Jordan Lyons, ASUM program coordinator; and Adri-anne Donald, director of the UC, began working on the UM Food Pantry in July 2018.

The committee does not know the number of students experiencing homelessness or in need of extra help. On Friday, Feb. 8, the University of Montana took part in the point-in-time count that helps track how big the population of people experiencing homelessness is. The count will help campus and Missoula decide how much money...
to allocate to resources for those individuals. The results of the survey will be available to the city of Missoula.

Cowley said she knows the food pantry is needed because the food cupboards have been emptied and stocked since they opened last semester. Her worst nightmares are stress dreams where no one shows up to the pantry, she said.

“I've seen a lot of hopelessness on campus recently with all the turnover in admin and drops in enrollment,” Cowley said. “I want to be able to bring some hope back and remind people that UM students care about each other.”

Cowley said space to store food is already running out in the pantry. If there's another food drive, finding space to fit the donations will be a challenge, she said. In the future, Cowley said she hopes to expand the food pantry into a more permanent location.
Dean of Libraries Shali Zhang will leave UM with no permanent female or non-white deans in mid-February. Zhang is assuming the position of Dean of the Auburn University Libraries in Alabama.

Of the 11 dean positions at UM, six are currently held by interims. Of those six, three are held by women. All permanent dean positions are held by men.

Three of the interim dean positions — the College of Education, Missoula College and Davidson Honors College — will be filled this spring, in time for the beginning of UM’s next fiscal year, July 1, 2019. The remaining three will be hired by July 1, 2020.

Zhang said in an email that she believes UM now has an opportunity to address the lack of diverse dean leadership with the upcoming recruitment of the six positions.

Marcie Briggs, human resources recruitment manager at UM, said the University is working to balance diversity with qualification in all recruit-ment, and specifically in the dean hiring process.

“We have an institutional diversity plan,” Briggs said. “So we always aim to try to meet those goals, while always keeping in mind hiring the most qualified individual.”

Briggs said she also looks at the six interim dean positions as a way to diversify UM’s deans.

A letter from Provost Jon Harbor stated the expectation for search committees is to “increase their focus on fairness, transparency and inclusion as they conduct [future] recruitments.”

In an effort to do this, UM has taken three specific steps, Briggs said. First, search committee members must go through implicit bias tests in order to become aware of any subconscious prejudice. According to the provost’s letter, committee members then discuss the results.

The second measure is to make sure the job advertisements use language that “encourages diverse applicants to apply,” the provost said in the letter. Job advertisements are pasted into a “gender decoder” that recognizes inherent bias within the language of the ad. In order to most encourage women and minorities to apply, the ad must yield on the side of either “neutral” or “feminine,” Briggs said.

All first-round applicant reviews will also be conducted blindly, taking away identifiers like race, gender and location (such as address or hometown). The hope with this process is to level the application playing field, Briggs said.

“It’s a really interesting process because it changes the way people talk about the candidates [when their gender is unknown],” Briggs said.

Paula Short, UM spokesperson, said a more diverse faculty starts with a more diverse application pool. She said UM needs to make an effort to encourage women to apply in the advertisement stage, part of the goal of the gender decoder.

“Even if we try to recruit for diversity, we can
Donald said.

qualified candidate in tandem with diversity, “away from Affirmative Action) and to prioritize within legal limits for recruitment (i.e.: staying policy UM has adopted.

and students. This contradicts the “blind review” UM to take, in order to prioritize the import-

y.”

I think that’s holding us back. I think we need to make a concerted effort to actually recruit for diver-

sity, because we’re in Montana,” Donald said. “But

Donald said the need for diversity comes from a need for connection and representation between students and staff. She said that, in the very least, diversity provides more of a variety of representation for students at UM.

“Staff and faculty and administrators serve more than one role,” Donald said. “Often times, they become a safe space [for students].”

Donald pointed out that student retention is “not only based in the classroom,” but also related to students’ outside lives. The connection that students have with faculty and staff plays a role in their success, and a solid foundation of trust with a mentor could help all aspects of a student’s life. Thus, diversity within the UM administration could even positively impact retention rates, Donald said.

“I think sometimes we get stuck, as a university, because we’re in Montana,” Donald said. “But I think that’s holding us back. I think we need to make a concerted effort to actually recruit for diversity.”

She said that, in her opinion, intentionally seeking out diversity is the most important step for the University to take, in order to prioritize the important representation and connection between faculty and students. This contradicts the “blind review” policy UM has adopted.

Donald acknowledged the need to remain within legal limits for recruitment (i.e.: staying away from Affirmative Action) and to prioritize qualification in potential candidates.

“That doesn’t mean that we can’t have that qualified candidate in tandem with diversity,” Donald said.

Campaign Montana nearing $400 million goal for UM scholarships and more

$400 million, here we come!

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With a goal set at $400 million, the University of Montana Foundation is in the midst of Campaign Montana, its most ambitious fundraising campaign to date. The UM Foundation quietly spearheaded Campaign Montana in 2013 and has already raised $360 million in funds to put toward scholarships, fellowships, research and more.

While the UM Foundation continues to work toward its $400 million goal, Montana State University one-upped UM on Tuesday by raising $413 million in its own campaign. MSU’s “What It Takes,” which started in 2015, was the most successful fundraising campaign in Montana history. According to an MSU press release, “What It Takes” was MSU’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Even though fundraising for Campaign Montana has been underway for five years, University President Seth Bodnar officially announced it last October, just before homecoming weekend. At the time of the announcement, the UM Foundation had already raised 80 percent of its goal.

“Now is the time for big thoughts and bold actions from our collective community,” Bodnar said in an October press release. “UM is at an important juncture as we build upon our tremendous strengths and pursue new and promising directions.”

Heather Rue, vice president of marketing and communications for the UM Foundation, said the Foundation originally intended to announce Campaign Montana in 2017. But when former UM president Royce Engstrom stepped down and interim leadership took over, the Foundation was prompted to hold off.

“It came to the Foundation’s attention during the launch planning stages that the University would be entering a presidential search,” Rue said. Because of this, leadership at the Foundation wanted to get a better sense of the new president’s vision and priorities before making the official announcement.

Rue said Campaign Montana’s original goal was set at $320 million, but the Foundation increased the goal to $400 million in the spring of 2018 due to a large outpouring of donations and support.

“Time and again, our alumni and friends have stepped up to help the University and its students, faculty and staff,” Bodnar stated on Campaign Montana’s website. “Your support has changed thousands of lives and has helped to transform and sustain entire communities.”

Bodnar said in the press release that funds from Campaign Montana would go to “comprehensive priorities” on campus. UM said these priorities include academic and athletic scholarships, fellowships, more out-of-class experiences, upgraded technology and facilities, advising and career development and faculty endowments.
Asbestos lawyers rally parents of McGill Hall preschoolers

Parents of children exposed to asbestos in McGill Hall’s childcare area met with two attorneys Thursday, Feb. 7, after grilling University of Montana officials at multiple on-campus meetings about its delayed response to the contamination.

On the second floor of the Florence Building in downtown Missoula, attorneys Adam Duerk and Jim Roberts shared their experiences in representing clients exposed to toxins, and took questions from the nearly two dozen adults in the audience. Some held babies in their arms. Their older children stayed busy at tables on the far side of the room.

A child started to cough.

“Cover your mouth, please,” his father said.

Duerk and Roberts, both part of the Knight Nicastro law firm, held an open meeting Thursday for anyone concerned with being exposed to asbestos in McGill Hall, which the University closed Jan. 31. On Feb. 8, a second ASUM Child Care facility at Craighead apartments was closed after it too tested positive for surface asbestos.

“The main purpose is to let people know that there is a legal recourse, and that solutions tend to emerge with time,” Duerk said.

Both Duerk and Roberts represent a client who, like all the parents in the audience, was impacted by the discovery of traces of exposure in McGill well above standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

For nearly two months, UM has tried to ease concerns from staff, faculty, students and parents. Tests of a dust pile found above a ceiling tile in McGill Hall showed “unacceptable” amounts of asbestos fibers Dec. 12.

In the following weeks, the University first sealed off several offices. After further tests, officials closed off the building’s preschool center, displacing the program’s 47 children. Two days later, an email announced that the entire building would be shuttered. Although air consistently showed no dangerous level of asbestos fibers, wipe samples taken from computers and furniture in the preschool showed levels far above federal standards.

In the past two weeks, officials heard from parents outraged that they were not told of the initial discovery of asbestos, and professors and students of the media arts program who now found themselves without access to specialized equipment or classrooms vital to the program.

When told at an on-campus meeting Thursday, Feb. 7, that McGill may open within the next week, audience members still questioned whether they’d be risking their health by returning to class. And the concern is not contained to McGill.

Martin Horejsi, a professor in the education building, held up a plastic container with bits of ceiling tile that he found on a bookshelf in his office.

“Should I wear a respirator when I clean my office?” he asked environmental hygienist Scott Rogers.

Acting on behalf of its client, Duerk’s firm has requested that the University preserve all material in McGill’s daycare being tested for asbestos, such as books, clothes and furniture. Other items requested for preservation include emails between the University and the environmental hygienists hired to test for asbestos.

Since the discovery of loose asbestos in December, Duerk said parents, students and faculty have reached out to his firm for consultation.

“Are you going to live with the anxiety that your kids are going to have to live with lung cancer?” responded one mom.

Bodnar said administrators are working on a plan to relocate children at the education building, but that it might take two months to find a more permanent location.
"Derry Girls": this teen comedy with a side of socio-political conflict slaps

ERIN GOUDREAU  erin.goudreau@umontana.edu

For the sake of journalistic integrity, there are a few things I should probably cop to before reviewing a teen comedy set in Northern Ireland during the final decade of The Troubles.

One: As someone named after the Gaelic word for “Ireland,” I have an irrationally specific affinity for all Celtic cultural production. Two: Just to clarify where I fall on the socio-political conflict between Protestant Unionists and Catholic Irish Nationalists—fuck the English (it’s more complicated than this, but also, it’s not). Three: I just spent Missoula’s polar vortex watching bad but perfect teen dramedies with my roommates, all of which were set in the nightmare years of the late ’90s and early ’2000s (I’m talking “A Cinderella Story” featuring the light of my life, Hilary Duff).

All of this is to say that when I heard Netflix had released a new comedy series about a group of misfit high schoolers attending a Northern Ireland Catholic school in the ‘90s, a show about sixteen-year-old girls dealing with all the typical anxiety-inducing social dynamics that exist on school buses plus the added stress of having one’s bus stopped and searched by a police force that’s packing heat, I thought: Sign me the hell up.

Our fearless leader in “Derry Girls” is Erin Quinn (I told you I couldn’t be impartial about this show), perpetually scowling, equally enraged at any given moment about both her relative social obscurity at school and the spectre of English tyranny. Erin is simultaneously sexually squeamish and boneheaded. I will be forever haunted by the scene in which she observes a dog piss down the face of a Madonna statue at church, but in an attempt to receive attention from the priest she’s crushing on, claims the figure was weeping.

Erin’s friend group constitute the remaining shades of teenage insanity. Her bizarre-but-endearing cousin Orla, the ambitious but skittish Clara, hoop-earring-wearing and sailor-mouth-swear- ing Michelle, and Michelle’s cousin James, a quietly sarcastic English boy who attends the all-girls Catholic school for fear of getting beat up in a co-ed setting, round out the crew. “His mum went to England for an abortion,” Michelle says with a smirk when introducing James to her friends. “Never got the abortion either.”

In addition to its wit and perfectly executed physical comedy, “Derry Girls” excels at one especially difficult task: highlighting political conflict while allowing it to remain in the background, never letting it overwhelm the development and dynamics between its lead characters. Never forget, the school’s deadpan and inscrutable head nun says to visiting students, “We’re the goodies.” Yes you are, “Derry Girls.” You really are.

It’s time to say goodbye to the broads of ‘Broad City’

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We’ve laughed and sighed (and gotten really high) but now it is time to say goodbye to our favorite broads in the city. With each stoned escapade we’ve fallen deeper in love with this love story between two 20-something girlfriends trying to make it in the Big Apple. But the time has come to light one up and say a final “yas queen.” “Broad City” has entered its final season.

Co-stars Abbi Jacobson and Ilana Glazer’s story began at the New York’s Upright Citizens Brigade Theater, leading to their creation of the web series “Broad City,” which was picked up by Comedy Central in 2014. The show is produced by comedic badass Amy Poehler and has the most bizarre cameos, from Fred Armisen and Amy Sedaris to RuPaul and Shania Twain. Jacobson and Glazer pay careful attention to their cult following of fans, putting in special details only die-hard broads could catch. They capture the casual chaos of the city perfectly with small scenes that unfold in the background, giving you glimpses into strangers’ lives.

This season, they’re sticking to their roots with a weebly aesthetic. The first episode of the final season is told entirely in instagram stories, following Abbi and Ilana’s celebration of Abbi’s 30th birthday. Despite their mishaps, Ilana and Abbi have a way of lifting one another up and growing into their own better, albeit still broke, versions of themselves. As this season of “Broad City” charts the girls’ mishaps, we plan on remaining right beside them until the very end.
The Kaimin takes Big Sky Documentary Film Festival

Today marks the beginning of our two-week coverage of Missoula’s annual Big Sky Documentary Film Festival! This is one of the coolest events of the year, so we want to make sure you guys know all about it. Don’t forget to bring you student ID for ticket discounts.

Friday 15

Out of Omaha: Filmed over 8 years, “Out Of Omaha” follows black twin brothers as they come of age in racially divided Omaha, Nebraska. From director Clay Tweel and executive producer J. Cole, the film examines what it takes to overcome systemic injustice. Elks Lodge, 7 p.m. $8

Saturday 16

Before the Storm: Set on the streets of London where a grassroots movement is stirring among the disenfranchised youth of the city, “Before the Storm” documents a group of bikelife riders in the build up to their annual mass ride-out. Elks Lodge, 11 a.m. $7.

The Providers: Set against the backdrop of the physician shortage and opioid epidemic in rural America, “The Providers” follows three healthcare providers in northern New Mexico. Amidst personal struggles that reflect those of their patients, their journeys unfold as they work to bring care to rural Americans living on the margins. Elks Lodge 4:15 p.m. $7.

Ski Bum: The Warren Miller Story: This film chronicles the life and times of the legendary filmmaker who, through his annual ski films and national tours which began in the early 1950’s, was a driving force in the development and promotion of the ski industry in America and throughout the world. The Wilma, 6 p.m. Free.

The Blessing: A Navajo coal miner raising his secretive daughter on his own struggles with his part in the irreversible destruction of their sacred mountain in “The Blessing.” Missoula Community Theater, 7:30 p.m. $7.

Sunday 17

Farmsteaders: Clear-eyed and intimate, “Farmsteaders” is as much a study of place as it is a study of persistence. Having abandoned a career as a food processing engineer at General Mills, Nick returns home, the prodigal son, and he, his wife Celeste and their young family resurrect his late grandfather’s dairy farm. Nick and Celeste’s meditations on life, legacy, and resistance offer an unexpected voice from those who grow the food that sustains us. The Wilma, 3:30 p.m. $7.

Stars in the Sky: A Hunting Story: “Stars in the Sky” is an examination of the lives of American hunters and their sometimes complicated relationship to our environment. The Wilma 7 p.m. $7.

The Pollinators: Billions of honey bees are trucked around the country to pollinate the crops critical to what we eat. “The Pollinators” tells the story of this amazing annual migration through the eyes of beekeepers, farmers and scientists who warn that the bees and our food supply are in peril. The Wilma, 8:15 $7.

The Interpreters: Afghan and Iraqi interpreters serve as a crucial bridge between American soldiers and local nationals. But as a result of their work with the U.S., many have become targets. In the chaos of their war torn countries, these loyal allies now struggle to find a way out for themselves and their families. Elks Lodge 9 p.m. $7.

Monday 18

Blood Memory: Battles over blood quantum and ‘best interests’ resurface in the untold history of America’s Indian Adoption Era - a time when nearly one-third of children were removed from tribal communities nationwide. As political scrutiny over Indian child welfare intensifies, an adoption survivor helps others find their way home through song and ceremony. Missoula Community Theater, 1:30 p.m. $7.

Wrestle: Splintered family lives, drug use, teenage pregnancy, mental health struggles are explored in this intimate, coming-of-age documentary about four members of a high-school wrestling team at Huntsville’s J.O. Johnson High School, a longstanding entry on Alabama’s list of failing schools. Elks Lodge, 9 p.m. $7.

Tuesday 19

Dark Eden: A wildfire, cancer, oil, and the need for work, “Dark Eden” is a self-awakening descent into the toxic reality of our modern world. A deeply personal and moving story about love, life, and death in one of the world’s most destructive industries, the Canadian Oil Sands. Missoula Community Theater 6 p.m. $7.

Tre Maison Dashan: This film is an intimate portrait of three boys growing up, each with a parent in prison. Directly told through the child’s perspective, “Tre Maison Dasan” is an exploration of relationships and separation, masculinity, and coming of age in America when a parent is behind bars. Elks Lodge 6:15 p.m. $7.

Markie in Milwaukee: Assembled from over 10 years of footage, “Markie in Milwaukee” tells the story of a midwestern transgender woman as she struggles with the prospect of de-transitioning under the pressures of her fundamentalist church, family and community. Elks Lodge 6:15 p.m. $7.

Wednesday 20

Fire on the Hill: The Cowboys of South Central L.A.: When a sudden and mysterious fire wipes out the Hill Stable-- the last public horse stable in South Central, Los Angeles--a culture of urban cowboys come under threat. This western-documentary follows the life and struggles of three inner-city cowboys and the line they must walk between the gang-filled streets of LA and the path of an American Black cowboy. Missoula Community Theater, 1:45 p.m. $7.

Return to Mount Kennedy: In 1965, Jim Whittaker led Robert Kennedy on the first ascent of a remote mountain in the Yukon named after JFK. Fifty years later, their sons revisit the site of the iconic climb to learn more about the endeavor that shaped their families. Featuring new interviews by Eddie Vedder and never before seen footage of the climb, the film sits at the intersection of politics, human rights, environmentalism, and adventure. Missoula Community Theater, 6 p.m. $7.

Montana Kaimin takes Big Sky Documentary Film Festival
**Time for ski bums to show up and show out**

1. **Friday, Feb. 15**
   “Out of Omaha” not only marks soft opening of this year’s Big Sky Film Festival, it’s also the movie’s first screening in the Northwest. Filmed over eight years, this film follows black twin brothers as they come of age in racially-divided Omaha, Nebraska. Elks Lodge, 7 p.m. $8

2. **Saturday, Feb. 16**
   OK, Missoulians. It’s time to live up to our ski bum hype by showing up and showing out to the Wilma for the festival’s opening night “Ski Bum: The Warren Miller Story” chronicles the life and times of the legendary filmmaker who was a driving force in the development and promotion of the ski industry. The Wilma, 6 p.m. Free.

3. **Monday, Feb. 18**
   As people living on the historic land of the Bitterroot Salish, “Blood Memory” is one we shouldn’t miss. Battles over blood quantum and “best interests” resurface in the untold history of America’s Indian Adoption Era, a time when nearly one-third of children were removed from tribal communities nationwide. Missoula Community Theater, 1:30 p.m. $7.

4. **Tuesday Feb. 19**
   Assembled from over 10 years of footage, “Markie in Milwaukee” tells the story of a Midwestern transgender woman as she struggles with the prospect of de-transitioning under the pressures of her fundamentalist church, family and community. Elks Lodge, 6:15 p.m. $7.

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**KAIMIN COMIC**

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**EVENTS | TOP 4**

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**COOPER MALIN**
Open & honest: conversations about trauma with partners

On the third week of Season 23 of “The Bachelor,” my favorite contestant, Caelynn, told Colton she was raped in college. She had nothing to gain from doing this on television, but everything to gain from telling a prospective husband about her experience with sexual trauma. Gendered violence is outrageously common, to the point where it’s not always a question of if a girl has been assaulted, but when. But the frequency of sexual violence doesn’t lessen the ramifications of experiencing it. And with those experiences is a need for openness with partners.

I know from experience how difficult it can be to talk about trauma and the effects of PTSD—I did it in a whole 1,500-word story last semester! Barring telling, you know, everyone about your problems, it is still outrageously difficult to tell a partner about those things. I’ve always been afraid of judgement, of abandonment, that I’d be “too much” for someone to handle. A liability.

In my column last week, I mentioned panic attacks during sex. My trauma is why those happen. The times it has happened, I chose to explain, as best I could, what caused my unprecedented breakdown in the nude. I apologize, mention how I was abused as a kid, put on a hoodie and avoid physical contact with them.

There have been a few who have recoiled. Literally, physically recoiled. For those people, it was too much. Some of them felt guilty. They felt they had done something wrong (they hadn’t), but they also felt I had done something wrong. One of them told me if I couldn’t handle sex, I shouldn’t have it. He guilted me into believing that because I’d been sexually abused, I couldn’t really enjoy sex. He was very, very wrong. I know that now. There were others who were kind and understanding, who tried to comfort me. They talked me through the panic attack, reminding me to breathe. They listened to me as I told them my story. They didn’t ask questions. They didn’t shy away. They were there for me.

I went through trauma therapy last summer, and it helped me be more honest with people about my trauma. I’m very open about the struggles I’ve faced through my life, specifically the kind involving sexual trauma, and I can honestly tell you that it’s one of the greatest things I’ve done for myself. Telling people what I’ve been through has helped me feel more confident in myself and in my ability to have healthy relationships.

Not everyone can (or should) write a public description of their trauma. How I deal with my struggles isn’t how everyone should deal with theirs. But everyone who has experienced trauma should try to open up about what’s happened to them. Maybe not with everyone they meet, but with the people they know. If you’re not trying to keep a huge secret, you’ll feel better. And that’s on top of having an open and honest relationship with someone (however many someones) you care about and trust. My trauma will never go away, but being honest helps me feel better.
Whenever someone asks me about graduation, I preface with, “Assuming I don’t fuck anything up between now and then,” before giving them an answer. I pretend that I’m trying not to jinx myself, but to be honest, I kind of hope I do. Why would I want to graduate? I love my professors. I have a fantastic setup in my university apartment, and I think my downstairs neighbor only hates me a lot for being nocturnal. There are so many classes I still want to take. Not to mention, I’m a creative writing major and will be zero percent more employable after graduation.

Sure, college sucks sometimes. There are essays and exams, and sometimes you forget to buy a blue book and have to buy one off of your professor. It comes with all-nighters, sleeping through class due to those all-nighters, refusing to leave the house just in case you run into the professor of the class you skipped (lather, rinse, repeat). But it’s the devil we know. We’ve been told our entire adult lives that the job market is in shambles and that every industry but STEM is a dying breed. Forgive me if I’m not chomping at the bit to get an unpaid internship at the local McDonald’s. And at least that gig comes with a dope jingle.

I come from a place of privilege to be able to take an extra couple years. I don’t have to worry about my student loans piling up, and my parents — God bless their souls — have been patient while I figure out how to be a decent student (have you guys heard of studying? Apparently we’re supposed to be doing it).

But not everyone has the option to meander around campus and follow their bliss for a few semesters before buckling down. The FAFSA fairy peace out after 180 credits and for a lot of us, failing a class means signing up to pay off student loans for who-knows-how-long with our nonexistent future jobs. To me, college feels like the last opportunity we have to be kids. Maybe that’s why I skip class and drink on weeknights more than I should. But if you work full time while going to school, you don’t have time to feel like a kid. You’re already adulting, and college is a high-stakes means to a (hopefully) profitable end that will — assuming we don’t all die in nuclear war or fry up in the harsh rays of the sun in the meantime — eventually be worth it.

For me, I sometimes worry if it’s just glorified daycare. A holding ground before I have to accept my eternal fate in retail. Frankly, I’m pretty sure that I’m peaking as I write this. No matter which boat you’re in, graduation is a huge transition. That can feel scary no matter how prepared (or unprepared) you are for your next phase in life. I don’t know what my next phase will look like, but I know that best-case scenario, this is the semester I graduate. Actual best-case scenario, I become a lifer, and I never have to get a real job.

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CRUMBLED CEILINGS STAND BETWEEN STUDENTS, STAFF AND ASBESTOS

STORY BY MICHAEL CAST   PHOTOS BY SARA DIGGINS

Damaged ceilings and walls in a lab on the second floor of the Charles H. Clapp building at the University of Montana. The damaged tiles are the only thing keeping asbestos in the ceiling.
Peeling strips of masking tape no longer cover the holes in the ceiling tiles of the Charles H. Clapp Building — a dark joke among faculty and students working on the lower three floors of the asbestos-laden building.

For years, the building’s asbestos fireproofing has crumbled off the structural steel and onto the top of the ceiling tiles. The rotting tiles are plagued by holes and ringed stains from water leaks, occasionally falling to the floor.

“The tiles provide a minimal barrier to contain the asbestos, but the tops of all ceiling tiles have to be treated as contaminated with asbestos, as many test results indicate,” reads a 2009 funding proposal to the Montana Board of Regents.

Asbestos is known to cause diseases, including lung cancers and mesothelioma that show up 10 to 40 years after exposure and is often fatal. Friable — crumbling and potentially airborne — asbestos is of greatest threat to health.

To combat that threat, the University put up masking tape.

The top two floors of the Clapp building were renovated in 2008, but in its 2009 proposal to continue abatement with the second floor, the University stressed the critical need for abatement and continued air monitoring to ensure the health and safety of building occupants.

Ten years later, no widespread abatement of the lower floors has been done. Regular air monitoring has not been done.

But across campus, under dangling strips of masking tape, holes and rotting tiles, life goes on in the Clapp building.

This past fall, in interviews taken on the lower three floors of the Clapp building, faculty and students painted a picture of chaotic disrepair and asbestos management where they work and study.

Biochemistry professor Steve Lodmell, who has worked on the second floor since 1999, said he experienced two serious floods in the past 10 years. One came down through the ceiling tile and soaked the printer in his lab.

The area directly above the flood had been previously abated, but Lodmell questioned where the water had been before falling through his ceiling.

“After we’ve mopped up the water, are there asbestos fibers that were carried with it? Because who knows what route that water took? That’s risky,” said Lodmell.

Walking through his lab, he indicated the tiles of unabated ceiling just a few yards from the scene of the flood.

“I’m looking for some tape,” said Lodmell, pointing up to a dark hole at the corner of a ceiling tile. “Ah yes, there’s some tape over here. Looking pretty old and grungy and not doing what it’s supposed to anymore.”

The 2009 proposal for second floor abatement reads, “The asbestos fireproofing sprayed on the structural steel in the building is poorly adhered causing it to delaminate from the steel, falling on top of the ceiling tiles or into rooms where no ceiling tiles exist. The tiles provide a minimal barrier to contain the asbestos, but the tops of all ceiling tiles have to be treated as contaminated with asbestos, as many test results indicate.”

According to UM Director of Facilities Services Kevin Krebsbach, the masking tape was put in place to prevent asbestos from falling through the tile.

Physicist professor Paul Janzen, who has worked in the building for 10 years, said tiles crashed to the floor for years in the basement hallway under the breezeway until the hallway was renovated and abated.

But when a leaking sewer line rotted out in the summer of 2018, the leftover mess ended up in a nearby room.

“They knew this room leaked to begin with, so gallons of wet-cut concrete water came down and washed whatever happened with the asbestos out of the place, and now they had a big asbestos mess they had to clean up,” Janzen said.

That was just this past summer, and tiles went back into place only a few days before fall classes started. The tiles don’t look new. They’re stained, meaning either the leaks persist or the old tiles were reused, Janzen noted.

Brad Evanger, who specializes in asbestos management for UM Facilities Services, said the tiles were not reused.

Like Lodmell, Janzen worried about the path water takes in these incidents.

“Their rule is if it goes through an abated room, it’s clean. Many years ago they had a leak in the deionized water from the AIDS lab, so it went down from the second floor AIDS lab through the first floor Herpes lab into my lab. And they decided since my ceiling was abated, there was nothing to worry about,” Janzen said.

Looking up, he said, “You don’t need to ask me if I think that masking tape is doing anything.”

Although UM’s maintenance crews have specific protocols for handling asbestos in the building, Janzen remembered a crew of outside contractors coming in to update the building’s lighting and removing ceiling tiles haphazardly. Whenever something “interesting” happens, as Janzen put it, the University brings in an outside abatement crew to clean up. When everything is clean, they perform a clearance test of asbestos. Janzen noted that the results of these tests have never been posted for the Clapp building.

“It doesn’t leave you warm and fuzzy,” Janzen said.

In the fall, when asked in an interview if regular testing was done in the Clapp building, Krebsbach confirmed that it was not.

“We could take random tests every so often,” Krebsbach said then. “We could post those if we needed to.”

In the 2009 proposal, the University said, “To date, air sampling has shown no elevated levels of asbestos fibers in the occupied space and we can say with assurance that we have not so far put occupants’ health at risk. In order to say that in the future, we will need to continue to do air monitoring.”

Jaylene Naylor, a lab instructor and IT specialist on the second floor who has worked in the building for 11 years, said Facilities Services personnel don’t like to work on the unabated floors because they know it’s dangerous.

On the second floor, two biochemistry graduate students said they were concerned about asbestos in the building.

“Especially, you know, I’m young, and if I wanted to get pregnant later in my life or some-
thing. ... I thought about the consequence,” said one of the students, who has been studying on the second floor for 3 ½ years.

The two wished to remain anonymous, in part because they didn’t want to get anyone in trouble.

“The way things are at the University right now, it just makes me nervous,” said the other student, who has studied on the second floor for six years.

They only know not to pound anything into the asbestos wall where they work because someone they work with told them not to and they never received personal notice about the asbestos from the University. The University doesn’t send emails or conduct trainings regarding asbestos, so employees in the Clapp building rely on word-of-mouth and small signs posted around the building.

Krebsbach said in the fall that the University could do more to alert building occupants.

“Most of the occupants are aware of it, but if you have a new professor who gets a new lab and doesn’t understand the seriousness of it, he might be moving ceiling tiles and stuff like that,” he said.

In a demonstration of the word-of-mouth system on the second floor, research specialist Laura Hall showed the marks she and an undergraduate assistant unknowingly cut into asbestos laboratory bench tops while making labels — until they happened to find out there was asbestos in them, too.

Besides cutting into the bench tops, certain walls and bumping the ceiling tiles, the building occupants aren’t even allowed to change the light bulbs because asbestos accumulates on them. In the walk-in cooler in Hall’s lab, they used a household lamp after the ceiling bulb burned out. Hall found that somewhat humorous back in the fall.

“Maybe you should tell him what’s not made of asbestos,” said Dan Drecktrah, an assistant research professor who works with Hall. “It’d be a shorter list.”

Along with the ceiling tiles, counters and bench tops, the floor tiles have asbestos in them as well.

Like other faculty, Hall mentioned the masking tape.

“Doesn’t that make you feel safe?” she said.

The official position of the University and the state at the time was that the Clapp building was still safe for occupants.

As Kevin McRae, deputy commissioner for communications and human resources in the office of the commissioner of higher education, said in a fall interview, “It is a safety issue, but the Clapp building is safe.”

Hall said the building’s been forgotten and is in pathetic shape, that donors aren’t taken there on the tour, and the UM president never stops by.

“I know the football team is important, but why do they get that nice new thing?” Hall said about the Washington-Grizzly Champion Center that opened in Oct. 2017.

But despite her worries, she said she ultimately felt safe because Facilities Services personnel had reassured her that she was.

That was all this past fall.
On Friday, Feb. 1, Hall made it clear that reassurance was no longer good enough. At the informational meeting and Q&A in the UC Theater following the closure of McGill Hall due to high asbestos levels in the preschool and offices, she waited her turn among the frightened parents, faculty and students.

Speaking for herself and those she works with, Hall said she was scared. She said unidentified, black material flies out of the heating vents where she works, and she asked if a thorough testing of the Clapp building would be done while McGill Hall is tested. Her concerns were echoed by Paul Haber, president of the University Faculty Association, who spoke for many faculty members in older buildings.

“I think we’ve talked about that — in the really near future,” answered Krebsbach, and UM Vice President for Operations and Finance Paul Lasiter personally told Hall that testing will be done in the Clapp building.

In the Clapp building, phase contrast microscopy (PCM) tests yielded clearance results to Environmental Protection Agency industrial standards, but transmission electron microscopy (TEM) tests were used in McGill Hall. TEM testing is more accurate because it can detect smaller fibers, according to UM health sciences professor Tony Ward, who used both techniques extensively studying asbestos in Libby, Montana — an asbestos disaster that resulted in innumerable deaths of mine workers and citizens and still poisons the town.

He called PCM the “quick and dirty” method and TEM “the gold standard.”

In the Clapp building, clearance tests are conducted at projects’ completion, and only in isolated areas as a response to major incidents or during renovation. These tests the contained air of an area agitated after cleanup. The tests that revealed the positive results in McGill were surface wipe tests.

The EPA has set industrial standards, but asserts that there is no safe level of asbestos.

On paper, renovation of the three unabated floors of the Clapp building has long been a priority for the state and University. In 2015, renovation made it to the state legislature on Senate Bill 416, but died in committee. In the following two planning periods, the priority dropped from fourth to 10th on the state’s long-term university building project list. Over the same time frame, UM has made the Music Building its top priority despite the fact the building’s needs are not safety related.

At the going rate, one major project from the state’s list is funded every 10 years — meaning a 100-year wait for the Clapp renovation at the current pace.

Renovation of the Clapp building would cost upwards of $12 million, and the state and University have a tight budget.

The Clapp building has long been a maintenance nightmare with an asbestos problem, but after the asbestos incident across campus at McGill, Laura Hall wants more than verbal reassurance that she and those she works with are safe now.

“I want to see the numbers,” she said. “It’s not funny anymore.”
LOCAL FOLK AT SECRET VENUE, PSYCH-ROCK AT THE VFW

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LONELY HEARTS SUPPER CLUB

Are you a romantic for cozy homes, yummy food and music for the soul? Treat yourself, your sweetie or your platonic love to the Lonely Hearts Supper Club this Valentine’s Day. A $65 ticket will buy you a seat at the table for a five-course vegetarian dinner designed by Alexandra Brown with produce from Missoula Food & Grain and drinks from the Montgomery Distillery. Just 20 seats make up the club, gathering to celebrate love of all kinds at a quaint home in the University District. Three of Missoula’s finest musicians will strum their heartstrings in solo acoustic sets to heat even the coldest of February days. It’s not a party until Caroline Keys, Missoula’s musical sweetheart (yes, she was voted the Missoula Independent best musician in 2018) arrives. She will play her unfeigned folk, mesmerizing with lap steel and grounded in her glowing vocals. Keys, a serial music collaborator, has played in more Missoula bands than you can count on both hands. One of her collaborators of 15 years is Nate Biehl of local western swing band Cash For Junkers. He will strum away with Americana charm. Not to mention June West, a fresh yet well-traveled Missoulian. Her debut album, “June West”, released in September, has a wandering ease with her guitar and warm, earthy tones in her voice. Together, this trio of comforting solo acts will spread the love, making you feel less alone and more welcomed home this Valentine’s Day.

The Lonely Hearts Supper Club will take place Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6-9 p.m. The address will be provided upon purchase of a $65 ticket.

MASTERS OF THE
PSYCHEDELIC

Missoula’s music scene is psyched on psych rock. There is no shortage of local bands or fans who wear and tear through the popular genre. These bands bond through adventurous journeys of instrumental jams, channeling the universe in their garages through their amps. Now, they are uniting forces as a trifecta of local psychedelic powerhouses and calling themselves the “Masters of the Psychedelic.” Crypticollider, Manic Bandit, and Tiny Plastic Stars are hosting a night of rock ‘n’ roll wizardry. Manic Bandit opens the night and the third eye. Crypticollider follows with a cryptic set. This band of Missoula brothers and best friends has a playful approach to making energetic rock. Their music is experimental and expansive with whirling synthesizer, powerful drums, charged bass and engaged guitar duets. The dream team of Tiny Plastic Stars closes the night. The trio’s constellation glows brighter and brighter with each purgative performance. The band members’ imaginative garagerock is raw with energy. They have a tight connection when they are all playing their instruments, casting melodic spells in each ballad. Perhaps psych rock has arisen as a kind of escapism in an overwhelmingly socio-political climate. A kind of, “Well fuck it, let’s find some inner peace and do some mushrooms.” But with psychrock, you don’t necessarily need drugs to alter the mind, just some Missoula bands in a dingy dive bar.

Masters of the Psychedelic (Crypticollider, Manic Bandit and Tiny Plastic Stars) play Friday, Feb. 15, at 9 p.m. at the VFW. The event is 21+. There is a $5 cover.

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‘Buoys’ bobs in an uneven flow

JOHN HOOKS
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Few things I ever bring up in conversation are more groan-inducing than when I talk about my passionate fandom of, and advocacy for, Animal Collective. So much so, I have found, that it is largely better to just avoid the subject altogether, unless I’m with previously established kindred spirits, because to most people the band has a reputation that precedes it of stoner pretentiousness and inaccessibility. Music of, by and for white boys in natty tie-dye T-shirts who like to drop acid and run around in the woods. As one of those white boys, I have to say that while I don’t altogether agree with the stereotype, I do understand it.

Of the main quartet of Animal Collective, Noah Lennox, or “Panda Bear,” as he prefers to be called professionally for some reason, has had the most prolific and successful solo career. This is likely because his albums have managed to land more firmly in familiar and accessible genre territory. He doesn’t ask the listener to meet him halfway. While he worked on this album the previous year, his Animal Collective bandmates produced “Tangerine Reef,” an excellent audio/visual album about coral reefs that sounds straight from the ocean floor. While “Buoys” takes on a similar aquatic theme, this is an album that sounds more like it was recorded in a tide pool, a hybrid of the bubbling serenity underwater and the howling wind and crashing waves above. It is spacy and brooding, built out of sparse-but-elegant acoustic guitar samples and skittering, chilled-out re-contextualizations of drum patterns from Atlanta trap music, mixed with metronomic samples of water droplets.

It’s a cerebral and immersive album that unfortunately feels like it spends too much time on a few of the same ideas. Songs like “I Know I Don’t Know,” “Cranked” and “Master” all run through repetitive strum and kick patterns that don’t sound entirely different from one song to the next. The high points come when Panda slows down and stands out, like the mesmeric and affecting “Inner Monologue” and “Crescendo,” the polished opener “Dolphin” and the nearly transcendent high point, “Token.” All-in-all, it is a very good album, but still left me wishing it was a slightly different album.

Do listen: If you like long, moody walks on the beach and getting high and watching “Blue Planet.”

Don’t listen: If you don’t want to think about a “Finding Nemo” sequel where Nemo is a depressed twenty-something with a Soundcloud account.

BUOYS
PANDA BEAR

Feb. 8 and is very much an album that gets far better when you meet it halfway. While he worked on this album the previous year, his Animal Collective bandmates produced “Tangerine Reef,” an excellent audio/visual album about coral reefs that sounds straight from the ocean floor. While “Buoys” takes on a similar aquatic theme, this is an album that sounds more like it was recorded in a tide pool, a hybrid of the bubbling serenity underwater and the howling wind and crashing waves above. It is spacy and brooding, built out of sparse-but-elegant acoustic guitar samples and skittering, chilled-out re-contextualizations of drum patterns from Atlanta trap music, mixed with metronomic samples of water droplets.

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BUOYS
PANDA BEAR

‘thank u, next’ revels in a breakup, promotes self-love

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I should come clean on something: I have never been a huge fan of Ariana Grande. The last Grande album I listened to was “The Way” in 2013? I think? It’s just an aspect of the culture I haven’t managed to get hip to. This is all to say that given my lack of fandom, I was pleasantly surprised by her 2019 release, “thank u, next.”

The track “in my head” captures the idea that idolizing someone you like and building that person up in your head eventually leaves you feeling hurt. She considers the power and problems of painting such an unrealistic picture of someone you care about. I gained some major respect for Grande through this track. This is not an easy habit to break down! Not to mention, her vocals on this song are overwhelming, although that’s true throughout the record.

Even if you aren’t the biggest fan of mainstream pop music, this album touches on some incredibly valuable concepts, whether you’re a man or a woman. It’s for humans. If Grande’s intention was to turn skeptics into fans through causing us to reflect on the importance of self-love, she nailed it.
Pharmacy students practice giving campus flu shots

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As flu season approaches its peak, University of Montana pharmacy students have successfully administered a higher-than-normal 1,325 flu shots, as of Feb. 7. They gave shots to students, faculty and staff across campus, as part of their training within the School of Pharmacy.

Hannah Morigeau, 20, is a first-year pharmacy student working at Curry Health Center. She spent the beginning of the fall 2018 semester practicing giving vaccines first with oranges, then fake arms, and finally, with other pharmacy students as part of a course to get her vaccination certificate.

“You’re gonna be nervous anytime you do something new like that for the first time,” Morigeau said. “And then once you do it, it’s just like, that’s not as big of a deal as you made it. You build it up in your head.”

Based out of the pharmacy at Curry, pharmacy students work with real patients under supervision from an advisor. Students complete a two-week course at the beginning of their first year in the professional pharmacy program to become certified to administer vaccines. This is relatively new to pharmacy, according to Curry pharmacy manager Ken Chatriand.

Morigeau said pharmacy students take the training very seriously, and Chatriand agrees. The course covers technique, but Chatriand said students also research and learn about each vaccine a pharmacist can give, as well as dosage scheduling and administration. “Our whole motto is ‘Do no harm,’” Chatriand said.

The 2017-2018 flu season was one of the deadliest in years, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The 2018-2019 year is shaping up to be less severe, but it is still widespread in 24 states.

“Pharmacists have been getting more into giving vaccines out. We’re very approachable, which is a good thing,” Chatriand said. Going to a pharmacist can be less intimidating than going to a doctor’s clinic to get vaccinated, Chatriand said. It can be hard to get into a doctor’s office to receive a vaccine, he added.

Pharmacists can administer vaccines just as well and easily, Chatriand said. That’s why a program that teaches pharmacists how to administer shots is becoming more common. Going to the pharmacist allows someone to come in on their own time, which makes flu shots and other vaccines more accessible. Curry itself offers a wide range of vaccines, including Hepatitis A and B, Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) and Tetanus.

UM students, faculty, and staff can go to the pharmacy at Curry anytime during regular business hours to get their flu shot. The pharmacy accepts most insurance plans, making flu shots both accessible and affordable.
What pages to follow after unfollowing @fuckjerry

MATT NEUMAN
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Perhaps you’ve seen memes or Instagram stories with hashtags like #fuckfuckjerry or otherwise calling for the meme page @fuckjerry to be unfollowed. At over 14 million followers, the page is one of the most profitable pages on Instagram, bringing in tens of thousands of dollars for a single sponsored ad post.

However, the page grew to such heights on stolen jokes from Twitter and other Instagram content, usually with no credit and no payment to the original creators. Most recently, @fuckjerry caught fire for being involved in promoting the maligned Fyre Festival and then producing the Netflix documentary about the failed fest without taking any blame. Comedians like Tim Heidecker, Amy Schumer and John Mulaney all joined the movement, prompting their massive following to unfollow @fuckjerry.

So for this week’s meme column, we thought we’d give you some must-follow original content meme pages to follow instead of @fuckjerry.

@jacycatlin
@oldmanshoes
@pleasant_verks
@conyintheabyss
@renaissance_man
@wurfelhouse
@secretxsnae
@eel_merchant
@virginalvigilante
@gayvapeshark
@namaste_at_home.
dad
@lilyenmo
@teenagestepdad
@not_yr_boyfriend

Valentine’s Day sure to result in desperate, chaotic energy

It’s almost the end of Aquarius season, and honestly, thank god! We hope y’all Aquarians have been grateful for your time in the sun, but it’s time to shut up and let some others have some fun. Also, Valentine’s Day is coming up, so everyone prepare for some desperate, wild energy.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): You’re going to spend time coming up with a thoughtful gift for your partner. You will not get one in return. Classic. It’s not personal, this is just what you’ve signed up for.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Your time is almost up, but the climax is still to come (Is this an innuendo? It’s up to you). Try not to leave too much damage in your wake.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): You’re the only one who can handle this time of year with the appropriate grain of salt. Recognize this calm, cool and collected power and use it to your advantage.

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Oof. That’s really all there is to say. Your Valentine’s Day will consist of either pure bacchanalia or crushing despair. Maybe even both in the same day. That would be just like you, wouldn’t it?

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Don’t just get some expensive flowers for your sweetie and think your job is done. Thought and effort mean more than luxury. Go the extra mile and put in some genuine emotional labor. It will probably pay off.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): You’re going to fuck up this week. It’s unfortunate, but inevitable. You’re going to let something slide and make someone upset, so we recommend starting to think of some good apologies now.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): You have some very specific ideas about how you want your Valentine’s Day to go. This is your friendly, gentle reminder that this will probably not pan out! This will be good for you; it might inspire some growth. You just gotta roll with the punches.

Leo (July 23 - August 22): This is the perfect time to go out of your way a little bit and accommodate the people who are trying to reach out to you. Go to them, don’t make them come to you.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22): Whatever hill you’re dying on is not worth it. Chill out, man. Your sweetie’s room is messy, or the gift they got you isn’t quite right? These are small potatoes, please treat them accordingly!

Libra (September 23 - October 22): Don’t let the haters bring you down. Throw away your phone for a week, don’t go anywhere near Twitter and you’ll be ok. Regarding V’s Day: please remember that even flighty idealists should make plans every once in a while.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): OOF. No one is reading your mind, don’t expect them to. Unclench your jaw, drop your shoulders. You’ll be alright. Also, there is no other sign we would expect to have a hotter Valentine’s Day. Congrats, kings and queens.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Get your toes wet, suck it up and do the thing you’ve been anxiously pretending doesn’t exist. It’ll be much easier than you think. Let’s ease up on the sarcasm and fear of commitment this week, ok?
Finding light: my annual journey through SAD

SAD is something many people, including myself, experience in the winter. But, too often, we ignore our darker emotions to only portray our lighter ones. I wanted to make something beautiful out of my seasonal depression, to find light in a dark winter.

Thanks for following along on my visual journey through SAD over the last the month. I hope my experience has helped others at UM and in Missoula feeling similarly. For counseling and other resources, contact the Curry Health Center, right on campus.

BY ELI IMADALI
At highway speed, cars are invisible for a fraction of a second as they hurtle beneath the 12th Street overpass. Big rigs seem to exist on both sides at once, still entering as they’ve already begun their exit. (An object falling against the front of one of those would be a good distance away before the taillights even cleared the bridge.) The traffic flow at midnight is steady and consistent, and the timing seems easy enough to calculate. Each southbound vehicle passes the Denny’s exit, and in ten leisurely ticks disappears below the overpass. It’s only a matter of judging the proper time to drop from the railing, downward to a sweet spot about 3 feet above the pavement. So many variables complicate the desired confluence of events, though, and the whole plan depends on a lot of “if this, then that” sequences. (I had no trouble in school with those “a train leaves the station traveling 30 mph” problems. Why is it so complicated to time it such that a body (x) traveling in a vertical trajectory from y to z, and a corresponding object (A) moving horizontally from B to C, will meet at the intersection of C and z?)

It’s Galileo’s old law of bodies falling in a vacuum: velocity equals 32 lifespans per second per second, right? I’ve got the vacuum covered (mentally, at least), and velocity wouldn’t matter in such a brief plunge, other than that faster is better. The fall would only take what—one, two seconds; a pebble hits the pavement in about that time. Tossed in an arc, it’s about three seconds, including a stillness at the peak. I stand at the peak of that intent, watching traffic, counting seconds on my fingers and imagining the faux-algebraic diagram:

\[ y - x \]
\[ . \]
\[ . \]
\[ C (A \rightarrow B) = C + z + x = 0 \]

It might be smarter to count the beats from the blind side of the overpass. (This would prevent an alert driver from spotting me and swerving.) Faith in the ticking seconds would have to be unwavering, a whole-hearted confidence that I and some poor unsuspecting trucker will arrive at the point of impact simultaneously, after a slow seven count and a three-second dive.

More decisions, dammit: a slow tilt from atop the rail like a well-practiced bungee jumper? (Ballsy, but it would take longer.) An arch-backed cliff dive, face-first and eyes open? Or a wildly incautious, bent-kneed push out and down? It would distract me, I imagine, to make a noise, some statement. “Fuck it all!” I could shout. At worst (and most likely), I would yell a scrambling “Oh shit!” of too-late regret, followed by clawing the air and missing my appointment altogether, bouncing over the trailer’s roof and falling behind like an amateurish stunt man. And I want the grill, not the windshield. Like a moth plastered in the radiator, gripped by inertia after impact, thus avoiding an undignified tumble. I don’t want to be rolled and dragged like the Scarecrow, pummeled by multiple cars. (That would certainly get the job done, though.) I don’t want to look into anyone’s eyes.

There won’t be a chance for a do-over if I fuck this one up. And there are so many ways to fail (like I’ve done so brilliantly with everything else). If I drink enough to do it, how would I ever manage to get it right? I hadn’t planned on meeting defeat in the details, but there it is. I’m not smart enough for this shit.

A week (and untold thousands of trucks) later, I’ve taken the coward’s way and shamed myself through the Spirograph intake process of the state mental health system. A businesslike doctor assesses me for psych meds (my third identical interview in as many hours). She evaluates my risk level, reciting an assembly line checklist of red flags for depression, and she asks if I now, or have recently, entertained any suicidal thoughts.

“Yes.”

Have I formulated a plan of action? Am I in danger this minute of harming myself?

“No really a plan,” I tell her. “It wasn’t a good one … I couldn’t do the math.”

The doctor frowns at that one, and asks if I’m ever inexplicably sad, or cry for no good reason.

“No,” I say. “Never.” I blow my nose and shake my head. “There’s always a good reason.”

Send your creative writing to kailynmiddlemist@gmail.com.
**FOOD | RECIPES**

### Fancy grilled (and baked) cheese sandwich

After a long, hard day of classes, you come home and haven’t eaten at all. You can’t afford Domino’s for the fifth time this month, but your stomach needs something more than cereal. It’s time to make a grilled cheese. This version is so good you’ll forget you’re a broke college student. It only takes 15 minutes and requires minimal cooking skills. For this mouth-watering grilled cheese, all you need is sourdough bread, mayo, havarti cheese, parmesan cheese, and tomato and the ability to work a stove.

**Ingredients:**
- Sourdough bread
- Mayo
- Havarti cheese
- Parmesan cheese
- Tomato

Start by turning the stove on to a medium-high temperature. Pop two pieces of bread in the toaster, and slice some tomato. When the bread is ready, spread mayonnaise on the inside, and add cheese and tomatoes. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Once the stove is ready, drizzle a pan with olive oil and place your pre-grilled cheese on it. Put a lid on top and keep a sharp eye on it. Flip it when it’s golden brown.

After both sides are grilled to your liking, get out a baking sheet and place your grilled cheese on it. Finally, sprinkle parmesan cheese on the outside of your sandwich, put it on the baking sheet and stick it in the oven for about five minutes. The finished product should have melted cheese both on top and inside the sandwich. You’ll definitely want a napkin, as it can get greasy. Chow down and enjoy!

*Contributed by Emma Smith*

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### Answers to Last Week’s Crossword:

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M I S S
S W E D E
H O S T
A C H E
W A X E N
I N T O
C O U N T E R
B E A R
E N T A I L
M A R R I A G E
T A L C
Y E A S T
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R E G A L
R I S E
F R E N E T I C
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R E N T
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S A S S
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Polar vortex comfort food pick: Meagher Bar mac

RAVEN MCMURRY
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WHY YOU’RE EATING
A late-night RA shift couldn’t have gone any worse. You’re still trying to understand how many times people can lock themselves out of their rooms between the hours of 12 and 2 a.m. You call your best friend to see if they need comfort food just as much as you do. She’s thinking what you’re thinking: Meagher Bar mac and cheese.

WHERE YOU’RE EATING
The Thomas Meagher Bar. It’s an Irish Bar in downtown Missoula that’s pretty popular on Thirsty Thursdays. They serve delicious cocktails and, of course, shots of Jameson. But today is different. It’s a Sunday, it’s freezing outside and the sidewalks are becoming snow drifts. The Missoula Weather Advisory Report has just warned of the polar vortex, but nothing will stop you from that cheesy mac.

WHAT YOU’RE EATING
The buffalo mac and cheese. If you thought you could forget that Meagher Bar is an Irish pub, you get your hot mac with Irish soda bread. You get breaded chicken, cheesy shells and extra buffalo sauce because spicy girls need a spicy kick. It’s a big bowl for you, but the leftovers are even better reheated the next day.

HOW’S IT TASTE?
It’s like if “Sweet Victory” played in your mouth but with buffalo sauce. This mac and cheese will hype you up and won’t let you down. The cheese sauce mixes with the buffalo sauce perfectly, resulting in a color that’s menacing but delicious. The heat stays with you even after you’re done. You don’t really care for the bread, but it gives you a break from the spiciness. Make sure you have water on hand and maybe some pretzel bites to step back from the delicious heat fest sitting in your bowl.

ALL-IN-ALL
The mac and cheese will keep you warm in a blizzard for sure. While you’re enjoying the cheese, a shot of Jameson isn’t a bad idea either. With friendly waitresses that you’re bound to know if you went to Hellgate, it’s a pretty good time to share with your friends. They serve brunch through noon, so the mac doesn’t start until 1 p.m. On Monday nights, bring a date and spoil them with 50 percent off mac and cheese. If you or your date wants something a little more mild, Meagher Bar has six other mac and cheese options. I have heard good things about the pulled pork and the classic. If you trust seafood in Missoula and it’s a Monday, go for the $15.95 lobster mac. Really, this is like, their thing.

Get your pinball and pale ales at Gild’s underground arcade

MATT NEUMAN
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⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

WHY YOU’RE DRINKING
You’ve got the thermostat down to save some on the power bill, so rather than drinking in your igloo, you’re heading to the arcade for some beer and tacos. Plus, what better way to spend the money you’re saving on your power bill than on “Donkey Kong” and some lengua tacos. Yes, that’s tongue. Yes, it’s good.

WHERE YOU’RE DRINKING
Probably hunched over the “Pac-Man” screen or one of the pinball machines in the basement of Gild Brewing, the Hip Strip’s newest brewery/arcade/taco shop. The top floor has some nice couches and is pretty cozy, but I recommend ponying up $5 in the basement for a little pouch of gold arcade tokens. Also I heard the “Super Smash Bros.” is free, but it was occupied the whole time I was there, so cannot confirm.

HOW’S IT TASTE?
It’s bitter, but the Mosaic hops balance it out with just enough fruitiness. If you’ve had a Fresh Squeezed IPA from Deschutes, it may taste familiar. The Mosaic hops are front and center in both beers, imparting some tropical notes but also the distinctive scent that I personally think smells like B.O. If you have a problem with that, don’t sniff it, just drink it.

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

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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:

6 4 2 1 3 5 8 7 9
8 1 3 7 9 6 2 4 5
9 7 5 2 8 4 6 1 3
2 9 6 3 7 1 4 5 8
3 8 4 6 5 2 7 9 1
7 5 1 9 4 8 3 2 6
4 3 8 5 1 7 9 6 2
1 6 9 4 2 3 5 8 7
5 2 7 8 6 9 1 3 4
Exploring androgyny through fashion

Color palettes inspired by Wes Anderson films. Making a new fashion decision every morning. Exploring the idea of what gendered clothing really means. All of this coming from 24-year-old Raleigh Nordhagen, who explores expressing androgyny through their style.

In Hunter Bay Coffee on Thursday, Nordhagen sat toying with a wool scarf (royal blue with bright reds, greens and yellows sewn in), and talking about what influences their style, a commentary on gender expression.

“When I’m feeling more a certain way in a day, I’ll dress in a certain color palette or a certain style of dress,” they said. “I’ll wear a more flowy shirt on a more feminine day. Sometimes it’s just T-shirts and jeans.”

Nordhagen, who just recently came out as trans nonbinary, said their style has developed from a place of lashing out at fashion norms to a place of embracing authenticity. In high school, people would comment on the style choices that Nordhagen made, whether it was tight jeans or suits.

“A lot of my fashion, I guess, comes out of spite from high school,” Nordhagen said. “People who were like, ‘You need to dress this way,’ or, ‘You need to do a certain thing.’ Well, you know what? No, thanks.

“Now I dress the way I want, and I’m always comfortable and it doesn’t really matter.”

Nordhagen said they get a lot of inspiration from famed director Wes Anderson’s films: color palettes, textures and moods. They said that they can draw a lot from these films, the way they define themselves by how they dress.

Nordhagen has fully embraced fashion as an expression of whatever way they may feel, exploring gender normatives and androgyny — the colors, textures and styles that appeal to them, the things that make them most comfortable. And Nordhagen said others should feel empowered to do the same.

“Don’t let the fashion industry tell you how to dress,” they said. “Whatever fashion works for anybody is what should work for them. You should dress in what draws you and what makes you feel good.”
Erotica Chocolatica: Dirty Sexy Chocolate Show at the Wilma

TOP: Jourdan Nokleby, left, watches John Kni-spel and Taylor Caprara pretend to kiss while their respective sock puppets do the same. The three were part of the chorus and band of kitchen helpers throughout the show.

RIGHT: Cheffy Pants, a lead character played by Reid Reimers, helps a volunteer audience member pour the chocolate torte mix into a pan during the second part of the Dirty Sexy Chocolate Show at the Wilma on Feb. 9. The process was to be done with maximum possible pour length to better see the erotic nature of the chocolate.

FAR RIGHT: Preppy Pants Sean Kirkpatrick dumps melted chocolate on himself.

PHOTOS SARA DIGGINS
Four forgotten athletes are lined up 10 feet apart. They’re standing on turf pads, looking downhill at 400 yards of fairway, covered in snow and littered with flags and distance markers. The golfers are covered too, by the ribbed steel roof of their 50-foot by 30-foot practice facility.

It’s 18 degrees outside and the four garage doors — one in front of each of the practice docks — have been open for 10 minutes. The golfers are still hitting practice balls onto the driving range, but their hands are growing numb. Feeling the difference between clean contact and mishits is becoming difficult.

BANG!

The golfers jump, then freeze. Their eyes dart around the facility. They’re searching for a ricocheting flash of yellow but hoping they won’t find one. At the very least, they’re hoping they won’t have to dodge it. After a few quiet seconds, they realize they’re safe. The panic dies down and laughter takes its place.

“Where’d it go?” sophomore Faith D’Ortenzio asks.

Today, the Grizzlies are lucky. Freshman Katie Schlichenmayer shanked a pitching wedge off the right edge of the opening in front of her dock, but the ball bounced off the beam and out into the snow in front of her. Head coach Kris Nord, now in the second season of his second stint at the helm of UM’s women’s golf program, guesses he’s seen at least 10 balls hit the wall and bounce back around the inside of the Bill Ruegamer Indoor Golf Facility.

“If we were to build it again, I’d go for three bigger docks instead of the four we have now,” Nord said.

For 500 years, golf has been a game best played outdoors. But for a Division I program in Montana, playing outside isn’t always an option since spring practices start in January. That’s why the Grizzlies opened their indoor facility in the fall of 2015. They gave up the training nets and simulators that most college golf teams in the northern U.S. still rely on, replacing them with the four turf pads and garage doors overlooking the driving range.

Behind the hitting bays sits a 600-square-foot turf putting area with room to chip around the fringe. The massive “Griz” logo on the wall next to the entrance is signed by current and former players. The seven women on the team know the building’s entry code and they have around-the-clock access all year.

The facility is at The Ranch Club, a 20-minute drive from campus. The golfers say their classmates are often surprised to learn UM has a women’s golf program and believe practicing off-campus and out of sight could be one reason why. Minimal media attention certainly doesn’t help. Even the official Griz athletics Instagram account posted 183 photos between their last two mentions of Montana golf.

Nord’s motto for his team is “Life isn’t fair,” and it rings especially true this week. The first tournament of the Grizzlies’ spring season is The Battle at the Rock, Feb. 11-12,
"We're able to putt and chip on synthetic turf, but it's not live golf," Nord said. "You don't just go play your best golf when you haven't played for three months."

In a couple of years, Nord hopes the budget issues that have plagued UM will clear up and his team will get a chance to travel somewhere free of snow for a few practice rounds before the season starts. Until then, he'll ramp up his fundraising push inside Montana's golf community.

The facility gives the golfers a chance to watch the flight path of their ball and tune up their short game, but it's tough to simulate the pressure that comes with playing competitively. That's why, sometimes, the women pick a flag somewhere on the range and swing at it. Whoever gets closest doesn't have to clean up. Those stakes may not seem high, but they are, considering what cleanup entails.

After practice, the women bundle up in snow boots and black down jackets. They leave the warmth of the facility, where a two-foot-tall speaker tuned to FM radio is playing Blondie's "One Way Or Another." They start their trek to the far end of the driving range, picking up all of the balls they hit on the way. They wear gloves because they pick them up by hand.

The process usually takes a little over 10 minutes, but during a blizzard last week it took three times as long. Sometimes it's tough to track down all of the balls that wedged themselves deep into the snow.

"You'll start looking for a golf ball in a hole and be like, 'Oh, that's from a vole,'" junior Teigan Avery said. She added that holes made by voles and field mice are typically thinner than those made by golf balls, making it easier to distinguish between the two.

This year, collecting the balls is easier. The Ranch Club has compacted the snow with snowmobiles, so the balls don't sink as far and they're easier to spot from a distance. The team also switched to yellow practice balls — from the traditional white — this season.

"People on campus ask, 'How do you guys practice in the winter?"' Baylee Barckley, the team's lone senior, said. "I'm just like, 'You'd be surprised.'"

As fears of asbestos permeate campus, enrollment struggles to pick up and classes migrate online, UM needs sports more than ever to rally, unify and propel the school back to health.

Sports often come under grumpy students' budget cutting gripes. They question how the football team seems to receive new uniforms every other week when academic departments can't even fund printers.

Donor money flows more freely to flashy Friday night lights than printers. You can't get drunk while watching a printer spit out paper.

Sports serve an integral role at universities, uniting alumni, surrounding community and current students to form school spirit and pride. Historically, Missoula relied on football for this, but the events of 2011 created trust issues.

UM needs to stop chasing the ghosts of a troubled football program and invest in the hardwood. Bobby Hauck said, after losing The Brawl of the Wild, the Griz football rebuilding project won't be complete for another two years.

Hauck doesn't understand that UM can't spare two more years of bad football. Enrollment has been dropping since a rape scandal involving the football team unfolded at UM, shortly after his first stint in Missoula.

UM needs to leave the stadium for the arena. Basketball costs a fraction of the price tag on padding 100-plus football players.

Saturday night, Dahlberg arena vibrated with energy as fans screamed at the opposing Eagles. The arena wasn't even at capacity, but the opposing head coach, Shantay Legrans said, "Montana, the fans are second to none, I mean look at the building. It's a great place to play a game."

The Griz and Lady Griz have consistently delivered great, nail-biting games and quality basketball for fans all season long.

Hippy and yuppified Missoula students, caught up smoking weed and sending it with $100 ski passes, deem themselves above school spirit and collegiate sports. But they forget sports cross lines and bring people together. Basketball is the ideal place for healing the broken bonds between Missoula and UM.

With its postcard scenery and old brick buildings echoing of East Coast legacy schools, UM holds an image of the classic collegiate experience and collegiate sports. But they forget sports cross lines and bring people together. Basketball is the ideal place for healing the broken bonds between Missoula and UM.

Basketball serves as the perfect icebreaker to start practicing this unification under the Dahlberg Arena rafters.
Does your business have daily specials or student discounts?

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Let the voice of the University of Montana advertise your campus event!

Special rates for campus organizations. Student groups and non-profits get 10% off all advertising. Email ads@montanakaimin.com.
The Griz softball team is facing its first spring season without the program’s original recruits, but that doesn’t seem to faze it.

“I’m excited to just make our own name for ourselves,” said returning junior outfielder Kylie Hayton. “We can do it without them.”

The bulk of the 16-person team lies with underclassmen — six freshmen and four sophomores. Eleven seniors graduated from the team last spring, opening up many opportunities for new players to step into larger roles on the team.

This weekend, the Griz started three freshmen in each game of the NorCal Kickoff tournament.

“It’s a pretty new team in general,” head coach Melanie Meuchel said. “They are very hungry. They’re pretty gritty and determined.”

The Griz left Santa Clara scoreless on Friday morning and picked up its first [and only] win at the NorCal Kickoff with three late runs. UC Davis beat the Griz 2-1 later that afternoon.

The Griz allowed nine hits on Friday and struck out eight. As a team, the Griz have the most depth defensively in their pitchers, with four returning from last season.

Saturday left the Griz winless in California after chalking up a pair of losses to UC Santa Barbara and a second face-off with UC Davis.

The Griz fell to Cal State Bakersfield 2-3 on Sunday, the final day of the tournament. It carried a 2-1 lead into the bottom of the sixth inning until the Roadrunners settled the score and eventually topped the Griz.

The Griz are eager for their February preseason tournaments to begin, and the opportunity to play outdoors around the west. Two weeks before the NorCal Kickoff Tournament, the team was able to practice outdoors on a plowed field, but the recent cold snap forced practice back into their indoor facility.

“Being an outdoor sport in the state of Montana at this time of year can be challenging,” said Meuchel. “We have phenomenal facilities that really allow us to train to a certain point. It’ll be nice to get out and get some balls on dirt.”

Last month, the Big Sky Conference preseason coaches’ poll picked the Griz for a fourth-place finish in the league, out of seven teams. Montana finished fifth in the Big Sky Conference last year.

“We are very excited to find out who we are and what we are able to do,” junior catcher and Big Sky High School grad Morgan Johnson said. “It’s almost like we expect to be the unexpected.”

Meuchel expects her team to start the season strong but believes it will grow each weekend of competition. She hopes the growth will be enough to clinch the Big Sky Conference title for the second time in the program’s history. The overall, biggest goal for Meuchel would be to compete at an NCAA regional tournament this spring.

“With that being said, that is something that we will work and strive for in May and continue to build as our year goes on,” said Meuchel. “I think the sky’s the limit and that even some of our players don’t know what they are capable of, and I think it will be fun to really let that shine through.”

The Grizzlies will head to Las Cruces, New Mexico, for five games in the Troy Lox Classic. They’ll spend the next three weekends playing tournaments in California, before returning home to take on Utah Valley March 16-17.
Griz fend off rival Eastern Washington in high energy game

TOP: University of Montana guard Donaven Dorsey goes up for a reverse layup.
LEFT: Head coach Travis DeCuire yells to the team in the second half.
Coach DeCuire earned his 100th win against Eastern Washington.
RIGHT: The Eastern Washington Eagles huddle up during a timeout in the first half.

PHOTOS BY ELI IMADALI