

Griz O-lineman retires

Big Sky grad Colton Keintz
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GOP alternative

Sen. Daines, others say Biden's
30X30 lands plan too vague **MONTANA, A9**



Waterworks upgrade

Popular trailhead to get nearly
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BEN ALLAN SMITH PHOTOS, MISSOULIAN

Law students and others hold their hands in the air to acknowledge survivors of sexual assault during a walkout Tuesday at the University of Montana's School of Law.

UM to conduct review of law school after walkout

About 100 rally to demand accountability, change in leadership

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Following a walkout and rally at the University of Montana's law school, UM is launching an independent review to assess the school's structure.

About 100 UM students and community members gathered on Tuesday morning to demand change and accountability in the Alexander Blewett III School of Law.

Speakers and students called on law school Dean Paul Kirgis and Associate Dean Sally Weaver to resign, saying the two administrators had failed students and created a toxic environment.

As first reported by the Daily Montanan, women from the law school say the dean and associate dean discouraged them from reporting allegations of sexual harassment and assault to the



From left, Samantha Veneski, Lenore Bushey and Everett Johns participate in a walkout by students of the University of Montana's School of Law.

university's Office of Equal Opportunity and Title IX.

Following students' demands and based on what was discussed at the walkout, university officials are launching an "independent, outside review to assess the learning and working environment in the Law School and the mechanisms in place to best support students," according to

a statement to the Missoulian on Tuesday from UM spokesman Dave Kuntz.

Everett Johns, one of the walkout's co-organizers and a second-year law student, opened the rally with a speech.

"We're here today because the law school administration has ignored, silenced and retaliated against survivors at this school

for too long," he said. "We stand in solidarity here today with survivors."

Johns was eager to join the law school and eventually practice law in Montana and advocate on behalf of survivors. He himself is a survivor of domestic violence and sexual assault.

"But it didn't take long for me to realize that there's a problem at this law school. The administration here has created a toxic learning environment for students and for faculty," Johns said, directing his gaze at Kirgis.

Johns called for Kirgis and Weaver to be ousted. He suggested that a "radical culture change" is needed at the law school, and that change could be brought with fresh administration.

"The administration here has failed us. Dean Kirgis and Associate Dean Weaver, you have failed

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■ **ONLINE:** To see a video of the walkout at University of Montana, visit this story online at **Missoulian.com**.

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Bear manager says '30 to 40' in Rattlesnake

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The group name for bears — which don't often appear in groups — is a sloth.

And Missoula's Rattlesnake neighborhood has a serious sloth of black bears rummaging about for any food the human residents have left unsecured this fall.

"I'm estimating 30 to 40 bears in the Rattlesnake," Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks bear manager Jamie Jonkel said on Tuesday. "They're getting into any available fruit, and sadly, a few of these bears are getting into garbage and bird feeders. We're putting the whole Missoula area on high alert."

Similar sloths of bears have been pillaging the Grant Creek, Bonner-Milltown, the University neighborhood, and the lower Bitterroot as they bulk up for hibernation — a process called hyperphagia. As the backcountry supplies of hawthorn and service berries have been consumed, the bears key in on apple and plum trees in the more residential valley bottoms, Jonkel said.

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Hellgate teacher pleads not guilty

Hamilton arraigned on sex abuse counts, on bail after reduction

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A Hellgate Elementary teacher accused of attempted child sex abuse pleaded not guilty in Missoula County District Court on Tuesday morning.



Hamilton

materials.

Missoula County District Court Judge Jason Marks pre-

sided. Hamilton's mom and brother were present in the courtroom at Tuesday's hearing.

Hamilton was arrested by Missoula police last Friday after they executed a search warrant at his residence. Charging documents allege Hamilton was in contact with a minor via social media platforms and exchanged sexually explicit images and messages with them.

The court also heard Hamil-

ton's attorney, Peter Lacny, on a bond reduction at the Tuesday hearing.

"Considering his strong community ties, lack of criminal history and the small likelihood of flight I'd ask the court to reduce bond as requested," Lacny said.

State prosecution maintained that a \$100,000 bail was

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Logging

From A1

It would also allow construction of seven miles of new permanent roads, 9.4 miles of temporary roads and 35.4 miles of “undetermined roads” in an area that already has about 400 miles of existing or decommissioned roads. Another 54 miles of private roads cross the project area.

But the area is also considered a connection corridor for grizzly bears traveling between the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem and the Bitterroot Ecosystem to the south. The NCDE has the largest population of grizzlies in the Lower 48 states with nearly 1,000 bears, while the Bitterroot has no confirmed

resident grizzlies despite decades of recovery effort. Grizzly bears have been protected by the Endangered Species Act since 1975.

The case first went to U.S. Magistrate Kathleen DeSoto, who recommended halting the project because it failed to meet four of the seven challenges brought by the environmentalists. They included lack of evidence that the Forest Service was properly preserving mature tree cover or old snags for wildlife habitat, that it hadn’t accounted for the effect of 137 miles of old roads on grizzly bears and hadn’t accounted for how a previous logging project on the Frenchtown Face might affect the Ninemile project.

Federal Judge Dana Christensen confirmed DeSoto’s opinions in his order on

Tuesday. In discussing the failure to explain the Ninemile project’s plan to leave less than a 50:50 coverage of large, mature trees for wildlife cover, Christensen wrote that “a forest plan’s goals are not ‘merely aspirational ... purely optional’ or ‘just a wish list that imposed no obligations.’ Instead the Forest Service’s failure to comply with a forest plan’s goal may very well constitute a (National Forest Management Act) violation.

“This language is not ambiguous and Defendants’ (Forest Service’s) proposed interpretation, which would construe the 50:50 standard as optional, is not entitled to the slightest deference,” Christensen concluded. “As Judge DeSoto concluded, the issue in this case is that Defendants have not pro-

vided any updated calculation at all. The Court cannot simply take Defendants’ word.”

Alliance for the Wild Rockies Executive Director Michael Garrity said Tuesday that in the past, courts would defer to the Forest Service in a lot of things.

“Over time we’ve shown the Forest Service has lied to the court, and judges don’t appreciate that,” Garrity said.

AWR and the Citizen Task Force each mounted separate challenges to the Soldier-Butler project that got combined in the final ruling.

Lolo National Forest spokeswoman Kate Jerman said on Tuesday the agency was reviewing the ruling and considering next steps.
