



5 SPORTS

Spring drills hit
Washington-Grizzly

7 NEWS

Legislative roundup:
same-day voting, gun
rights, DUI, death penalty



6 SPORTS

Lady Griz fall
in Spokane

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CAMPUS



Muslims, Jews and Christians all join hands Sunday evening at the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, before sharing a meal and discussing what the three faiths

Sharing faith

Muslim, Jewish and Christian students, community members gather to discuss culture, religion at

Heidi Groover
Montana Kaimin

Turki Ismail has dark skin and deep, piercing brown eyes. His square jaw is framed with a five o'clock shadow and his expression is serious as he sits in a wooden church pew at the Holy Spirit Episcopal Church in Missoula.

As the last light of the day shines through stained-glass windows, the red-and-white-checked pattern on his shumagh and his crisp white thawb, traditional Saudi dress, stand out.

Ismail, president of The University of Montana Saudi Student Association, listens intently as the church's interim priest describes subtle differences between various Christian churches.

Ismail is one of about 115 Muslims, Jews and Christians who gathered at the church Sunday to share food, cultural insight and to discuss the similarities among their faiths at the Three Faiths Potluck Supper.

Guests took a tour of the church and some set up displays about their home countries

or faiths. Standing behind a poster with maps and photos, three Kuwaiti students and one Saudi studying at UM answered questions about their home countries.

"This is really nice. It's a way for us to look for similarities rather than differences," said Meshal Shames Al-deen, a UM student from Kuwait and member of the

Softball to become D-I sport

AJ Mazzolini
Montana Kaimin

The University of Montana will add softball to its Division-I sports lineup, UM athletics officials confirmed Monday.

While the funding isn't yet in place for the new program — an estimated \$500,000 a year — the University tentatively plans to suit its first team in the spring of 2014, said Jean Gee, Montana's associate athletics director.

The addition comes as part of the athletic department's gender equality plan in keeping with Title IX of the Education Amendments. By offering

See SOFTBALL, page 8

UM veterans group seeks support

Jayne Fraser
Montana Kaimin

Steve Hale knows the difficulties veterans face returning to school or seeking a college degree for the first time.

After more than five years as an Army cavalry scout, he's attending The University of Montana to learn skills to help fellow vets transition back into civilian life. But he's not waiting until graduation — or even to be accepted into The University of Montana's School of Social Work's graduate program — before helping other students make the transition he did.

See FAITHS, page 3

See VETERANS, page 3



39°F | 28°F

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SOFTBALL
From page 1

softball, Montana would continue to qualify as Title IX compliant.

To receive federal funding, a school must comply with one of the three prongs of Title IX, said Lucy France, director of equal opportunity at the University. By adding a women's sport in high demand, Montana will continue to meet the terms of the third prong and receive funds.

The third prong requires that the institution fully accommodates the interests of the underrepresented sex. As more men currently participate in Montana athletics — roughly a 3:2 ratio — the third prong refers to females.

"We have to make sure we're meeting the interests and abilities of our female students," France said. "That's what the law says we have to do."

Montana fails to meet the first two prongs. The school's athletic opportunities for women aren't proportionate to its female enrollment — 40 percent involved in sports to 52 percent of UM's total population. Montana also fails Title IX's second prong by not continually expanding athletic teams for the underrepresented gender. The last women's sports addition was soccer in 1994.

Judging the interests of the school's female population hasn't been difficult, Gee said. Over the

"The only reason I'm not playing softball right now is because the University didn't offer it."

Rachel White, student

last year, the University surveyed incoming freshmen and current students on the topic, asking which women's sport was missing from Montana athletics. The answers came back overwhelmingly in favor of softball.

Gee credited high school softball in Montana for that support.

"When you look at the [state] high school participation rates of women's sports, [The University of Montana] has all the one's down the list until you hit softball," she said.

"I don't think we'll have any problem recruiting either," Gee said. "They don't have a single Division-I level school to go to in this state."

That's a fact not lost on Rachel White, a UM freshman who played softball in Missoula at Big Sky High School. White played softball all through her childhood, but because she wanted to stay close to home for college, she was forced to give up the game.

based on operating costs for similar programs, Gee said, and do not include facilities.

A long-term goal for the program is to have its own stadium, but that's likely a long way down the road Gee said. Preliminary talks with the Missoula County Public Schools involve the use of fields at the Fort Missoula Softball Complex near Big Sky High School for Grizzly softball events.

Student fees could be used to collect some of the necessary funding, said Gee, but the athletics department is still working on a budget with campus administration.

With softball programs at the University of North Dakota and Southern Utah University joining the Big Sky Conference in 2012, plus Montana's planned addition

two years later, the conference will have eight participating schools. At seven sponsoring schools, a conference receives an automatic qualifier to the NCAA Women's Softball Championship tournament.

Though UM officials said last fall that adding another women's sport was a requirement for Montana to change conferences, Gee stressed that the new sport is unrelated to that exploration. Montana declared its allegiance to the Big Sky, turning down a possible invite to the Western Athletic Conference last year and nothing has changed since.

"No, our position on that has not changed," Gee said. "This is strictly a Title IX issue, not a conference issue."

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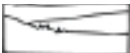
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Parks and Recreation summer jobs: Aquatics, Recreation. Work-study employer. Lifeguard/WSI classes starting April 11. Details at www.missoulaparks.org. Apply at Currents in McCormick Park. No phone calls, please.

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Guest Ranch in Florence looking for FT summer help \$10.00/hr send resumes to P.O. Box 396 Florence, MT 59833

PERSONALS
UM WILL BE TOBACCO FREE FALL 2011 "Not all of us choose to smoke. It's unfair to be exposed to something we choose not to be a part of." UM Student SARC is now accepting applications for peer advocates. The applications are now available and will be due by March 25th. Plenty of teeth cleaning appointments available at Curry Health Center Dental Clinic. Call us at 243-5445.

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