

MISSOULA COLLEGE

FAST TRACK TO A ‘BRAND NEW WORLD’



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

Katie Lewis poses for a portrait at the Ranch Club on Tuesday, July 8. Lewis, a Frenchtown High School graduate, completed the Bronc Fast Track Program, which offers dual enrollment for Frenchtown students through a collaboration with Missoula College.

Frenchtown grad commends financial savings, academics in dual enrollment

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Seeing cadavers up close and personal in the University of Montana lab was the “coolest thing in the world” for Frenchtown High School graduate Katie Lewis.

“Seeing all the muscles and everything up close, that’s just crazy to see,” Lewis told the Missoulian.

She got to explore the lab as part of her anatomy class through the Bronc Fast Track Program, which offers dual enrollment for Frenchtown students through a collaboration with Missoula College.

The junior college just off UM’s campus

awards the graduating seniors who complete the curriculum a UM general studies certificate, which is accepted at all of the schools in the Montana University System. This equates to about 30 college credits and allows high school graduates to earn a bachelor’s degree in three years.

The program helps students advance their studies, but also offers students financial savings for required general education courses toward an undergraduate degree. And with tuition rising at Montana schools and access to federal financial help through Pell grants diminishing, penny pinching can be essential.

Lewis is majoring in integrated physiology at UM this fall, and because she participated in dual enrollment, is hitting the ground running with 30 college credits already under her belt.

She said having her beginner-level courses in chemistry and biology completed opened up a “brand new world” for her. She can start taking courses for her major right away, with classes like nutrition and athletic training already on her schedule this fall.

The program also was a huge financial lift off of Lewis’s shoulders.

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Heavy rains interrupt search for flood victims

GABRIELA AOUN
Associated Press

KERRVILLE, Texas — More heavy rains in Texas on Sunday temporarily paused a weeklong search for victims of catastrophic flooding along the Guadalupe River and led to high-water rescues elsewhere as officials warned that the downpours could again cause waterways to surge.

It was the first time a new round of severe weather had paused the search since the July 4 floods, which killed at least 129 people. Authorities believe more than 160 people may still be missing in Kerr County alone, and 10 more in neighboring areas.

In Kerrville, where local officials have

come under scrutiny over the failure to adequately warn residents about the rising water in the early-morning hours of July 4, authorities went door-to-door to some homes after midnight early Sunday to alert people that flooding was again possible. Authorities also pushed phone alerts to those in the area.

During the pause in searches, Ingram Fire Department officials ordered crews to immediately evacuate the Guadalupe River corridor in Kerr County, warning the potential for a flash flood is high.

Late Sunday afternoon, the Kerr County Sheriff’s Office announced that search

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ERIC GAY, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rain falls over a makeshift memorial for flood victims Sunday along the Guadalupe River in Kerrville, Texas.