

Missoula Independent
iDEALS
Shop local Save local
ideals.missoulanews.com

— Gift Ideas —

Missoula Memories
THE EARLY YEARS
Missoula Memories book
\$44.95 value for **\$29⁹⁵**
This is not a voucher. Must purchase IDEALS voucher online.

Lake Missoula Tea Co.
\$10 value for **\$7⁵⁰**
This is not a voucher. Must purchase IDEALS voucher online.

Body Basics
\$25 value for **\$15**
This is not a voucher. Must purchase IDEALS voucher online.

Taco Sano
\$10 value for **\$6**
This is not a voucher. Must purchase IDEALS voucher online.

At what cost

Does Missoula really want a return to Hauck?

by Susan Elizabeth Shepard

It took less than a week after Griz football head coach Bob Stitt's firing for it to start looking like 2009 in Missoula all over again, as Bobby Hauck, currently coaching special teams at San Diego State, flew to town to interview for his old job. Neither the Griz nor Hauck have accomplished apart what they accomplished together—a string of conference championships, consecutive title game appearances—but can you turn back the clock? Do you want to, given the legal and moral tumult of the Hauck years? Let's revisit the last four Griz coaching regimes before we recap what the Griz are looking to regain.

Bob Stitt, 2015–2017

Hailed as an offensive genius, Stitt's arrival in Missoula (from the Colorado School of Mines) was accompanied by national media attention. His first season was promising, starting with a dramatic win over a top-ranked North Dakota State team and ending with a second-round playoff loss to the very same Bison. Then the Griz went 6–5 and 7–4, missed the playoffs and lost to the Cats in consecutive years. Like they say, sometimes Stitt happens and sometimes the Stitt happens to you.

Scandals and arrests: In the fall of 2015, three players were part of a group arrested for drunkenly breaking into a house in the Rattlesnake that they thought was empty.

Playoff appearances: 1
Griz-Cats: 1–2

Mick Delaney, 2012–2014

Brought back from a brief retirement after the semi-abrupt firing of Robin Pflugrad in 2012, the then-69-year-old Delaney did a more than respectable job handling a program emerging from NCAA sanctions and scandal. He retired after the 2014 season.

Scandals and arrests: One player arrested for buying drugs at Disco Blood-bath. A tight ends coach and a player got involved in a bar fight downtown.

Playoff Appearances: 2
Griz-Cats: 2–1



photo courtesy Todd Goodrich

"I know he's going to be a very strong candidate, there's no doubt about it," Montana Athletic Director Kent Haslam says of Hauck, pictured.

Robin Pflugrad, 2009–2012

Pflugrad was Hauck's heir apparent, moving up from wide receivers coach after Hauck's departure. Although he imposed stricter disciplinary measures on the team, like shutting down a long-running initiation party, Pflugrad presided over the massive meltdown that resulted when sexual assault allegations were brought against multiple players. He may have unfairly borne the brunt of the Hauck era's recruiting and team-culture missteps.

Scandals and arrests: Pflugrad was the coach when rape charges were brought against players Beau Donaldson and Jordan Johnson. The NCAA also levied sanctions on the program over rules violations, including boosters paying bail and providing free legal representation for arrested players.

Playoff appearances: 1
Griz-Cats: 1–1

Bobby Hauck, 2003–2009

Hauck took the Griz to three national title games and changed the tenor of the program, professionalizing and toughening it. After years of success, he left after the 2009 season to become head coach at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. His departure came at the end of a two-year run of players being involved in violent crimes. Hauck brought national media scrutiny to the program for freezing out UM's student newspaper, the *Montana Kaimin*.

Scandals and arrests: Several instances of multiple players involved in violent assaults. One player charged with murder. (He was later acquitted after spending 25 months in a Los Angeles jail.)

Playoff appearances: 7, three in the national championship game.
Griz-Cats: 5–2

That takes us back to 2009, before players are being arrested on sexual assault charges, but well into a string of arrests on felony charges. Depending on your point of view, Hauck symbolizes either a string of successes or an anchor to a past the university is still trying to live down.

ESPN magazine writer, former Griz player and former *Kaimin* reporter Kevin Van Valkenburg expresses serious doubts that a Hauck return would benefit the program.

"I'm pretty disappointed that Missoula fans have so quickly forgotten the mess that resulted from Hauck's tenure," he says. "As we kind of examine why the University of Montana is having so many enrollment problems, I think you can really tie that back into that Hauck era, when all those sexual assaults happened, and those are, in my understanding, mainly kids that Hauck recruited. And the sort of black cloud that cast over the university, I think, really was a huge driver in the enrollment drop."

Montana Athletic Director Kent Haslam declines to comment on the interview, but asked why the university might consider bringing the former coach back, he was willing to revisit Hauck's successes.

"Certainly he was very successful here and he won a lot of football games," Haslam says. "He's an excellent coach and a Montana native and a University of Montana alum, and understands what this university is all about, and I know he's going to be a very strong candidate, there's no doubt about it."

An informal survey of headlines from Hauck's last two years in Missoula produces a total of 12 player arrests in a span of 18 months on charges ranging from disorderly conduct to murder. A *Missoulian* story published Monday night lists 10 player arrests under Hauck, and at least three arrests of Hauck-recruited players in the years just after he left. His UNIV teams didn't seem to have had the same issues, making Hauck the first person in history to reduce his exposure to crime by moving from Missoula to Las Vegas.

It was an incident that went unreported to the police that blew up into a national sports story, however. In September 2009, the *Kaimin* reported that Griz players had been involved in an assault on another student. When student reporter Tyson Alger asked Hauck for comment on the incident, he replied "You're done for the day. And you'll be done for the season if you keep bugging

me about this thing that I've answered four fucking times."

Alger now covers University of Oregon athletics for the *Portland Oregonian*. Over the phone this weekend, Alger recalled the original story that earned Hauck's ire. "It was well sourced, and I still stand by it 10 years later," Alger says. "We asked him to comment four or five times, and they didn't want to talk about it, but when you're writing a story like that you're trying to get both sides."

What might have remained a local story just a few years earlier was suddenly all over sports media thanks to the emergence of Twitter. *Sports Illustrated*, ESPN

Still, Hauck is hardly the only option. Van Valkenburg mentions Syracuse offensive coordinator Mike Lynch, who played for the Griz in the '90s, as an interesting potential hire.

"I just feel like what Grizzly football needs is to be interesting and dynamic again, and not a retreat with someone who's going to start a battle and go to war with anyone who questions his authority," Van Valkenburg says. He also points out that during his semester as a journalism school Pollner professor in 2015, he saw that *Kaimin* reporters didn't have an easy time with Stitt either, and suggests that incoming university



photo courtesy Todd Goodrich

Montana fans regularly sell out Washington-Grizzly Stadium, the largest in the Big Sky Conference.

and Deadspin all published takes on Hauck's stonewalling.

Tyson was jarred by suddenly becoming a part of the story. "As a reporter, our job is to tell what's happening, so that turned into a kind of uncomfortable situation for me," Alger says. "It kind of made it out to be us versus them, when we were just trying to tell the news."

Despite all that, Alger understands why fans and boosters would want Hauck back. "Say what you will about the guy, he was incredibly successful there," Alger says. "He knows how things work at Montana, and I think he's a good football coach who knows the area, knows the landscape of Montana football."

President Seth Bodnar would do well to improve transparency with the press across the board.

One thing, though, is certain: The university, the conference and the division have changed dramatically since 2009. "The landscape's completely different. I think the culture within the athletic department is different," Haslam says. "New leadership is coming in with the new president, and a lot of things are changing at the University of Montana." Whether the football team will change with it, or look instead to its past, might be Haslam's next call. **f**

ssbepard@missoulanews.com

FRESH OUT OF MASHED POTATOES, BUT SERVING UP...

- Sustainability
- Affordability
- Shoppability
- Deductibility*
- Building Materials

*Home ReSource is a 501c3 non-profit organization so your donations are tax deductible.

Reduce. Reuse. Rebuild.

Home ReSource

1515 Wyoming St | www.homesresource.org

With nearly 100 years of service to Montana...

This December the Missoula-based law firm of Worden Thane is leaving the Florence Building on Higgins for the new Stockman Bank building on Broadway and Orange. With our roots firmly planted in Montana, our team looks forward to serving Missoula and surrounding communities from our new offices for years to come.

NEW LOCATION STARTING IN MID-DECEMBER:
321 W. Broadway, Suite 300

WORDENTHANE P.C.

PROVIDING STATEWIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION WITH CLIENT-DRIVEN RESULTS.

(406) 721-3400 | wordenthane.com | wt@wordenthane.com

Women’s advocates protest Hauck interview

Susan Elizabeth Shepard Nov 28, 2017 1 2 min to read

On Tuesday, University of Montana communications graduate student Lisa Davey posted a petition on [Change.org](https://www.change.org) asking the University of Montana not to hire Bobby Hauck back. “The University of Montana is sending a terrible message to students, women, and the community by even considering a rehire of the coach whose students were engaged in the shameful acts during his tenure,” it reads, in part.

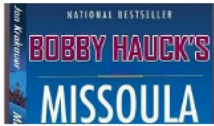
“I can’t believe that a university that’s still dealing with the impacts of Hauck’s tenure here would even consider bringing him back,” Davey says in an interview with the Indy. A Griz fan, she says she would have to reconsider renewing her season tickets if Hauck returns to the university.

Campus attitudes about sexual assault have improved over the last few years, she says. “There was a concerted effort to really be proactive about not being a sexist organization,” Davey says. “I taught several football player students, and they were all very vocal about women’s rights and not raping people.” While Hauck wasn’t coaching at UM when several players were arrested for or accused of sexual assault in 2011, Davey says those incidents are nonetheless part of Hauck’s legacy. “He was the coach for a long time, and he laid a significant foundation of, ‘If you do well, you get to be at the top of this community, and you have power and leeway.’”

Petitioning Lisa Davey and 2 others

**Tell the University of Montana not to hire Hauck.
Women are more important than winning.**

Lisa Davey, Missoula, MT



We must send a clear message to the University of Montana and the athletic program that women are more important than winning.

On November 27, 2017 the University of Montana Grizzly Football team interviewed Bobby Hauck to fill the head coach position.

Sign this petition

At least 1000 users get notified

First name

Last name

Email

Share with Facebook friends

Sign

You can track us to keep your information safe. By signing this petition on Change.org, I agree to receive occasional emails about campaigns on Change.org. You can unsubscribe at any time.

The university risks obliterating the progress of recent years if it rehires Hauck, she says. “The message it sends to the community and to women in the community and women on campus, to do this now, is a bad message,” Davey says. “Particularly in the context of the #metoo movement, that women all over the country right now are vocally proclaiming that our sexual independence and right not to be raped and groped is real.”

Davey says she hopes the university will respond to the fact people are upset about Hauck's interview. Asked for comment, Griz spokesperson Eric Taber said that no one in the department has been contacted by anyone about the petition, or expressing similar concerns.

One of the first signatories on the petition is Missoula city councilperson Julie Merritt, who represents Ward 6. On the phone Tuesday afternoon, Merritt said she was shocked to learn that the university is interviewing Hauck.

"I'm a survivor of sexual violence, so it is really triggering to even have the thought of him returning," Merritt says. "Which is why I feel like I should speak out about it." Merritt takes issue with the idea that the actions of players reflect only on those individuals, and not on the program. "It's hard for me to believe that someone as potentially influential as a university football coach doesn't have some influence over his players," she says.

The city and university both have made strides in their efforts to better handle sexual assault cases and improve the treatment of victims, Merritt says. "Healing is going to take a long time, and I know that from very personal experience," she says. "Just even the idea of having Bobby Hauck come back here seems like a huge step backwards."



Griz fan appeals ban

Susan Elizabeth Shepard Aug 30, 2018 0



The fallout from Bobby Hauck's return to coaching football at the University of Montana has reached Missoula District Court, though the case has nothing to do with the program. It's about the fans. Hauck supporter Mike Schlosser is appealing a June order of protection granted to fellow Griz fan Lisa Davey, who November. In response to the petition, Schlosser posted Davey's personal information and a meme that Judge Kathleen Jenks said constituted a threat in her decision to grant the protective order, which requires Schlosser to maintain a distance of 1,500 feet from Davey and forbids Schlosser from posting online about Davey in any context whatsoever.

The University of Montana also banned Schlosser from campus after some of his posts on a Griz fan message board he managed became public. But in March, the Twitter account Schlosser had been known to use (and which he later said he auctioned off online) tweeted photos from a Griz basketball game, tagging UM Athletic Director Kent Haslam. Davey says she realized that even if the campus ban was in effect, she personally didn't have a way to enforce it.

“It did propel [me] into getting the full order of protection from the court,” Davey says. She says she hasn’t seen any instance of Schlosser violating the order by posting about her online, but is concerned that his appeal means he’s “feeling limited” by the order. “His decision makes me worried that he wants to be here, or continue to follow me online or stalk me that way, or harass me.”

Haslam says he was made aware of the tweets at the March game and reported them to UM’s chief of police. He says that he’s unaware of any attempts by Schlosser to amend or appeal his campus ban. Schlosser’s attorney, Nick Brooke, declined to comment for this story, and Schlosser did not respond to a request for comment.

Schlosser’s appeal claims that the prohibition on posting online violates his First Amendment rights, and frames his tweets and message board postings as protected political speech targeted at Davey, who, he says, is a public figure in the local conversation and controversy surrounding Hauck’s rehiring. That echoes the defense being mounted in federal court in Missoula by attorneys for Andrew Anglin, publisher of the neo-Nazi website the Daily Stormer, who is being sued for damages by Whitefish realtor Tanya Gersh. Motions by Anglin’s attorneys to dismiss the case have argued that Gersh’s local activism made her a public figure, and that Anglin’s posting of her personal information was protected speech. So far, those motions have failed, and the case is scheduled to go to trial in January.

So long as he’s banned from the university, Schlosser can’t attend Griz home games this year. Davey plans to attend with her partner, a season ticket holder, but she hasn’t changed her mind about Hauck. “I still feel strongly that it was a mistake. Obviously they’ve made that choice, and so then you move on and wait and see how things go, but from a PR standpoint I think it was a horrible choice.”



Susan Elizabeth Shepard

Staff Reporter

Susan Elizabeth Shepard lived in Missoula from 2008 to 2011 before returning in 2017 to work at the Independent. She is also a two-time resident of Austin, TX, and Portland, OR, with an interest in labor, music and sports. @susanelizabeth on Twitter.

