



Montana Copacabana  
is special Valentine's Day  
night - Inside

■ Missoula art auction raises record amount. Page B1

FRIDAY

# Missoulian

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Today's  
weather

COLE:  
Snow likely  
High 29°/Low 14°  
Weather on Page C12

50 CENTS

'Rolling a kayak just downstream from Reserve Street wouldn't be a good idea just now.'

— Jim Carlson, Missoula Health Department director

## Sewage spouts out



Excavators Ron DeMott, left, and Don Cummings performed a thankless job for the common good Thursday afternoon as they clear debris from a 24-inch sewer main in need of repair at Missoula's Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Thousands of gallons of partially untreated sewage pour into Clark Fork after line is punctured

By ROB CHANEY  
of the Missoulian

Missoula had its own geyser field for a while Thursday afternoon, but it smelled a lot worse than Yellowstone's.

A backhoe operator accidentally punched a hole in a major pipe at the Missoula Wastewater Treatment Facility, creating a fountain of effluent in the middle of the plant grounds. City workers and private contractors scrambled to seal off the pipe and begin repairs as thousands of gallons of partially treated sewage poured into the Clark Fork River. The break occurred between the plant's primary and secondary treatment systems. City crews had to bypass the secondary

treatment and send the wastewater to a third part of the plant where it is released into the river. Wastewater already in the secondary treatment ponds was held back until the repairs were finished.

"We contacted every troop we could get in here," wastewater treatment director Starr Sullivan said Thursday afternoon. The broken 24-inch pipe was losing about 5,000 gallons of gray water a minute onto the lawn in the middle of the treatment plant, just west of the Reserve Street bridge over the river. Crews laid sandbag barriers around the area to contain the mess until the flow could be diverted.

Primarily treated water has had solid, sinking material removed and floating oil and grease skimmed off. It

is then sent to the secondary treatment ponds for further cleaning. In summertime, it is also treated with chlorine before being released into the river. That process is skipped in cold weather because the river is better able to absorb the wastewater, according to Missoula Health Department Director Jim Carlson.

Rolling a kayak just downstream from Reserve Street wouldn't be a good idea just now," Carlson said Thursday afternoon. "But the river has a better ability now to spread this additional load of food, if you will, that's coming down. If it had to happen, it's certainly better now than in summertime."

Sullivan said a treatment plant

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■ Power generation

## Changing plant rules considered

By ERIN P. BILLINGS  
Missoula State Bureau

HELENA - A bill designed to fix Montana's energy crisis by making it easier to build new generation plants drew mixed reactions Thursday, with industry arguing it's key to reversing the state's economic downturn and conservationists assailing it as an assault on a bedrock environmental law.

In a crowded hearing room before the Senate Energy Committee, emotional testimony was exchanged over Senate Bill 319, by Sen. Mack Cole, R-Hingham, to eliminate energy generation facilities from review under Montana's Major Facility Siting Act. The law, enacted in 1973, governs the siting of most energy-producing, converting and transporting facilities in Montana such as pipelines, transmission lines and coal-fired plants in Montana.

More than 30 individuals, including Gov.

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## Anti-annexation bills pushed aside

By ERICKA SCHENCK SMITH  
Missoula State Bureau

HELENA - Opponents of annexation struck out Thursday when a legislative panel voted without discussion to table four of their bills within hours of hearing public testimony. The bills were all sponsored by Missoula-area representatives - two by Rep. Dave Wanzersied, D-Missoula, one by Rep. Holly Raer, D-Missoula, and one by Rep. Butch Waddill, R-Florence. The representatives and their bills were faulted by opponents for trying to change the entire state because of a problem specific to Missoula.

"Annexation laws are doing very well in Montana, everywhere except Missoula," said former Attorney General Joe Mazurek, who is now a lobbyist for the city of Great Falls. Wanzersied, Raer and Waddill all have constituents in the Target Range area just

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## Keeping pardon effort secret was strategy of Rich's lawyers

By ROBERT O'HARROW JR.  
Washington Post

WASHINGTON - Lawyers seeking a presidential pardon for fugitive commodities trader Marc Rich strategized about how to win support from politicians and big campaign contributors, but worked hard to keep their effort secret, according to e-mail and other documents released at a House hearing Thursday.

One e-mail sent in November to former White House attorney Jack Quinn and other Rich lawyers stressed "a need for secrecy and possibility/likelihood of potential leaks." News of the effort didn't leak, but the announcement of President Clinton's pardon of Rich triggered a wave of controversy, in part because prosecutors in the tax evasion case never knew clemency



Jack Quinn, lawyer for Marc Rich who was pardoned by President Clinton, appears before the House Committee on Government Reform on Thursday.

Former acting attorney general Eric Holder, speaking for the first time on the issue, told the House Government Reform Committee that he had "only

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## Moose paid a price during reintroduction

Wolves, grizzlies had easy pickings but lesson was learned in a hurry

By PAUL REGER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Moose that had never seen wolves or grizzly bears didn't try to get away when the predators returned to parts of the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, but it took only a few bloody encounters for the animals to wise up, researchers say.

Wolves and grizzlies are back in parts of the sprawling Yellowstone ecosystem, where they had been absent for more than 50 years. Wolf packs were reintroduced, while the bears have naturally colonized the Grand Teton National Park and adjacent forest areas.

The wolves and bears immediately feasted on the innocence of the moose in the areas, easily catching, killing and eating animals that had never known such predators.

At first, said Joel Berger, first author of a study appearing Friday in the journal Science, the wolf and bear merely had to walk up to a moose. There was little attempt by the moose to run, he said.

"We were like forensic scientists" in studying the kills, said Berger, a professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, and researcher for the Wildlife



A moose hunkers down during a rainstorm in Teton National Park near Jackson, Wyo., in this photo last year. Moose that had never seen wolves or grizzly bears didn't try to run when predators were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park.

Conservation Society. He said it was clear from tracks and other evidence that the predators at first made easy kills.

"We got direct evidence of grizzlies killing 10 adult moose," said Berger. An adult moose can weigh almost 1,000 pounds.

Other evidence was found of younger moose standing almost still as they were approached and killed by the wolves

that ate them.

But that quickly changed. Within a season after the killing began, moose became alert and wary, starting at wolf howls and quickly moving on when they sensed danger.

Berger and his colleagues tested the predator alertness of the Yellowstone moose and compared it with that of

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