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FRIDAY

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Today's weather

COLD:
Snow likely
High 25°/Low 14°
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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 perform 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 a while Thursday afternoon, but it smelled a lot worse than Yellowstone's finest.

A backhoe operator accidentally punctured a 24-inch 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 repair the break and begin repairs as thousands of gallons of partially treated sewage poured into the Clark Fork River. The break occurred between the plants' 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 treatment ponds were 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 24-inch pipe was leaking about 5,000 gallons of raw water a minute onto the lawn in the middle of the treatment plant, just west of the Reserve Street bridge over the river. Crews had 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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Keeping pardon effort secret was strategy of Rich's lawyers

By ROBERT O'HARROW JR.
Associated Press

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

One e-mail from a former House attorney Jack Quinn and other Rich lawyers

stressed "a need for secrecy and

political links." 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

was under consideration.

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 RECER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Moose that had recently been reintroduced or grizzlies that didn't try to get away when predators returned to the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, but it took only a few bloody encounters for the animals to wise up, researchers say.

Wolves and grizzlies had been back in parts of the sprawling Yellowstone ecosystem, where they had been absent for more than 50 years. Wolf packs were reintroduced in 1995 and grizzlies 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 Jed 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 ransom 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 at first.

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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