

# New weather radar helps scan state

'This is history,' meteorologist says of Missoula Doppler radar

By SHERRY DEVLIN  
of the Missoulian

ATOP POINT SIX — It looked like a 5,500-pound Army-green soccer ball. But the dome lifted onto a Quonset hut on Point Six Tuesday afternoon was actually the protective cover for a new million-dollar weather radar.

"This is history," said Brenda Kaye Brock, meteorologist-in-charge at the National Weather Service in Missoula.

The new Doppler radar will provide quicker de-

tection of winter storms and severe thunderstorms, Brock said. It will calculate the velocity and direction of storms, and will distinguish between rain, hail and drizzle — all impossible with the previous, 32-year-old radar.

Where the old radar, dismantled this time last year, was hand-operated, the Doppler will be computer-driven, said radar operator Garland Hardamon. It won't take coffee breaks. It won't get tired at day's end.

In fact, the Doppler weather radar will "listen" across a 250-mile radius 99.8 percent of the time. Its only rest will come once an hour, when it transmits information to the Weather Service office at John-son-Bell Field for 5.7 seconds.

Brock said the radar screen, housed inside the soccer-ball dome, will scan 14 elevation levels. It

will be able to "see" the interior of storms, she said, even as they develop.

A Doppler uses the same principle that a highway patrolman uses to clock a motorist's speed. The radar sends out a signal which bounces off a storm and back to the radar, allowing a calculation of wind speed.

The equipment lifted to the top of the hut on Point Six, a mountain north of Missoula, will feed by microwave line of sight to the Weather Service in Missoula, 10 air miles away. Specialists must then interpret the data.

About a month of work remains to get the system in place, then six months of training, Brock said.

(More on RADAR, page 6A)

## Children's health the focus of forum today

The Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (MDHES) will be the site of a special forum today to identify health-related problems facing children in Montana.

"Child Health: Building a Blueprint for the Future" will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in Room C-209 of the Cogswell Building, 1400 Broadway. All interested persons are welcome to attend, and a special invitation is extended to parents, school nurses and representatives of daycare organizations.

A panel of speakers will start the forum, followed by public comment on developing solutions to problems identified by the panel participants or others.

# 5A

# HELENA

## Eloquent, articulate voices of Helena's black citizens

LEANNE KURTZ



### MORE QUARRIES FROM LAST CHANCE GULCH

and political activist from Topeka, Kansas who arrived in Helena and soon began publishing the *Montana Plaindealer*. The *Plaindealer's* first issue appeared on March 6, 1906, promising to "advocate the principles of Peace, Prosperity and Union, ... stand up for the right and denounce the wrong," and "at no time stir up strife but rather to pour oil on troubled waters." Like the *Colored Citizen*, the *Plaindealer* embraced most tenets of the Republican party. But Bass claimed that in the *Plaindealer*, "politics shall always be subordinate to the interests and welfare of our people," adding that while the paper would take a definite stand on political issues, it would also continually strive to benefit its black readership.

BASS QUICKLY IMMERSSED HIMSELF and the paper in volatile local political issues. In June 1906, city officials acted to close the Zanzibar Saloon, a predominantly black establishment. The *Helena Daily Independent* had called the saloon "the vilest, the most insolent, the most degenerate and the most anomalous warren of salacity and sin that Montana ever knew..." Bass retorted with headlines claiming "HELENA IS OPEN! GAMBLING RUNNING FULL BLAST!" The *Plaindealer* followed these attention-grabbers with a series of reports detailing gambling violations throughout Helena, and chastised city officials who did nothing to stop them. Before long, the Zanzibar reopened under another name, the Pekin.

Bass and his publication became heavily involved in local elections. As a reward for his partisan endeavors, the state Republican caucus had proposed that Bass be appointed as a staff person for the upcoming legislative session. When the appointment failed to come through, Bass exhorted, "The Republicans have said by their actions..." You may vote for us; you may take off your coats and work for us; but when it comes to emoluments of office, we have none of that for you."

The Republican Party again disillusioned Bass when, in 1909 a Republican-controlled state Senate passed a bill prohibiting intermarriage between whites, blacks and Asians. Bass commented in the *Plaindealer* that the bill's passage in the Senate was a "keen disappointment to our people, and what a surprise when the Republicans dealt the blow; going squarely back on one of the planks of their platform in the last campaign." After the Democratic House passed the measure in a 29-25 vote, an editorial appearing in the *Plaindealer* lamented, "Montana has joined the Jim Crow Colony alongside of Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Arkansas. God help us!"

Shortly after this defeat, the *Plaindealer* suffered a series of financial setbacks, culminating in its demise with its September 8, 1911 issue. The *Colored Citizen* and the *Montana Plaindealer* not only served as informative, eloquent and articulate voices for Helena's black citizens, they provide us today with a first hand glimpse into the lives of a population too often overlooked in the annals of Western history.

LEANNE KURTZ works as a historian and cultural records manager at the State Historic Preservation Office.

early a century ago, in September 1894, a new newspaper began publication in Helena; its aim to promote the "social, moral and industrial interests" of its readership. With its first issue, the paper jumped headlong into the political fracas between Anaconda and Helena for designation as the state's capital. Unmistakably Republican, the paper devoted numerous editorials and articles during its brief life to disparaging Marcus Daly and the Anaconda Copper Company. In its first issue, the editorial staff "hope that our people throughout the state without exception will speak a good word for Helena as the permanent capitol and on the 6th of November next vote for the city where five hundred of us live." The "us" to which the paper referred was Helena's black community, and the paper was known as the *Colored Citizen*, one of two Helena newspapers between 1894 and 1911 published by and devoted to the interests of Helena's black community.

Census records indicate that in 1910, Helena's black population numbered 420. From this stable and prosperous community, church groups, fraternal organizations and social clubs formed and flourished for many years. The St. James congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church served as the black community's social and religious foundation. Blacks in Helena found success in nearly every occupation and the newspapers devoted numerous column inches to bringing to public attention the achievements of its readership.

"THE STATE OF MONTANA," reads the *Colored Citizen's* inaugural issue, "has just right to feel proud of its twenty-five hundred colored citizens found in every county of this fair and prosperous commonwealth. They are to a man wealth producers. They are of the brawn that have unfettered and exposed to the sunshine of our unsurpassed clime the treasured wealth of ages..."

J.P. Ball, Jr. editor and manager of the *Colored Citizen*, and his financial backers (purported to be white politicians eager to claim victory in the famed Helena-Anaconda capitol city contest) believed that Montana's black voting populous was large enough to significantly sway the vote for Helena as Montana's capitol city. Ball hoped the black voters to which he directed his paper would obstruct the Anaconda Company's "iron claw of corporate infernalism which has always crushed out the black man from every factory and workshop."

In an article entitled "Anaconda Draws the Color Line," Ball explained how his staff was thwarted in an attempt to exchange information and articles with the *Anaconda Standard*. Stating that this was "evidently a case of colorphobia," Ball urged his readers to "vote or work against Anaconda," adding, "our paper must be respected."

The *Colored Citizen* met its end when its purported primary objective was met. Helena became the capitol city and the town's black community lost an eloquent spokesperson.

THIS ROLE WOULD BE ASSUMED AGAIN in 1906 by Joseph B. Bass, a social



Photo courtesy Historical Society  
Joseph B. Bass

## Ten Mile Creek to be cleaned of debris

Ten Mile Creek will be cleaned of debris by the Lewis and Clark County Road Department during late August. A crew will remove dead trees, limbs and branches in order to make more room for water next year, which will reduce the flooding potential.

Property owners along the creek are asked to allow access for this important flood mitigation project. The cleaning will begin at the Highway 12 West bridge and end about 1,000 feet east of Mountain View School.

# Duffin admits to killing wife in rage

By the IR Staff

BOULDER — Mark Leroy Duffin agreed Wednesday with a prosecutor's summary of how his wife, Gloria, died at his hands last fall during a violent rage, and now Duffin is awaiting sentencing for the crime.

District Judge Frank Davis heard Duffin, 27, change his plea from innocent to guilty to a reduced charge of mitigated deliberate homicide.

Duffin didn't give a detailed account of why he believed he was guilty, rather he listened and agreed with the summary of events that Jefferson County Attorney Rich Llewellyn said he would prove if the case proceeded to trial.

Davis ordered a pre-sentence investigation into Duffin's background, and that report will be used to determine a proper sentence. The judge didn't set a specific sentencing date, but it's expected to take place sometime this fall.

Duffin will remain in the Jefferson County jail until his sentencing; he also is facing a sexual assault charge that was filed this spring while he was free on bond in Chester.

Gloria Duffin, 25, died on Sept. 9, 1993, in a Great Falls hospital about 36 hours after suffering a beating in the trailer that she and her husband shared with an-

other man, William Suez Jr.

The beating followed an argument between the Duffins, court records indicate, and Suez said he awoke to a scream from the Duffin's bedroom about 4 a.m. and saw Duffin holding his wife by the throat, choking her.

When Duffin ignored Suez's pleas to stop, Suez ran to a nearby pay telephone to call authorities, a court affidavit states. There was no phone in the trailer.

Moments later, Boulder Police Chief Dennis Sullivan arrived; by then Duffin had driven away, leaving his wife covered in blood in their bedroom and gasping for breath, the document states.

As Sullivan began to chase down Duffin, he received word that Duffin had entered the county sheriff's office and told dispatcher Lori Giono, "I think I just killed my wife."

Sullivan then questioned Duffin before arresting him. Duffin told police that the argument with his wife escalated to the point where she told him to leave the home. As she started to pack his belongings, "I just lost it," the affidavit quotes Duffin as saying.

He later told Sullivan that he realized he "had her neck and head twisted" between his legs. A neighbor also told Sullivan that she heard shouting from the Duffins' trailer and a banging sound against the walls; the affidavit cites Sullivan as believing that sound was Gloria Duffin's head being smashed against the wall and floor.



## SUMMER SPLASH

Hannah Goodman, age 2, decided to cool off her mother Elizabeth Wednesday by splashing her legs in the Leo Pocha Park wading pool.

IR photo by Gene Fischer

## Phelps Dodge: 'Deal is a deal'

May sue Echo Bay to force it to buy share of mine near Lincoln

PHOENIX (AP) — Phelps Dodge Corp. said Tuesday a deal is a deal, and it may sue Echo Bay Mines Ltd. to force it to go through with a plan to buy a Montana gold mine site near Lincoln.

Echo Bay and its partner, Canyon Resources Corp. of Golden, Colo., announced Monday they are backing out of their plan to pay Phelps Dodge \$150 million for the Seven-Up Peter Joint Venture.

But Thomas Foster, a Phelps Dodge vice president, said that "it is our position that we have sold the property."

"The contract did have some outs, but we question

the validity of Echo Bay's reasons for backing out" and may take the issue to court, Foster said.

Phelps Dodge, based in Phoenix, owns 72 percent of Seven-Up Pete.

Canyon Resources owns the other 28 percent and, as part of the deal the three firms announced June 1, would have borrowed \$36 million from Echo Bay to pay Phelps Dodge for an additional 17 percent. Echo Bay was to pay \$114 million for 55 percent. The deal was to have closed about two weeks ago.

Canyon said Tuesday that without Echo Bay, Canyon cannot complete its part of the deal either. However, Canyon said that it still wants to increase its share and that it will continue to seek environmental permits needed for mining the deposit.