

Three contribute to 'green-glass' costs

Saturday is semiannual 'Trash for Trees' drive

Three donations have been made so far to pay for the cost of recycling green glass during Saturday's "Trash for Trees" recycling drive, according to Don Cobern of Helena

Recycle Now.

He said City Commissioner Jack Stults, Daphne Cosbie, and the Panhandler Plus store each have donated \$40, the cost of recycling a ton of green glass.

Trash for Trees is a semiannual drive that uses proceeds for tree-planting projects funded by The Growing Friends of Helena, a non-profit group.

Collection will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Capital Hill Mall, Northgate Plaza, and the Helena Community Federazal Credit Union.

Material to be collected includes newspapers, corrugated cardboard, glass, aluminum cans and steel or tin cans. Plastics cannot be accepted.

Use caution: Log haulers are at work near Lincoln

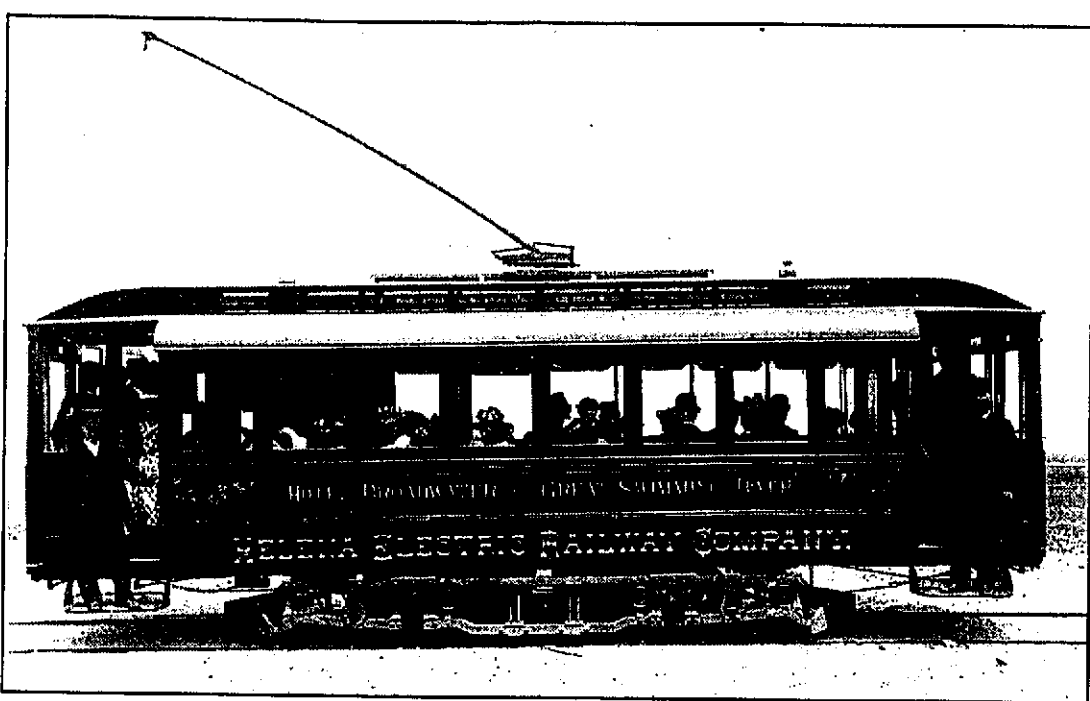
Forest users are advised that commercial log haulers will be using the Nevada Ogden Road west of Lincoln through the month of September, according to Lincoln District Ranger Gilbert Zepeda. Users are asked to use caution when traveling on the road. Further information about log hauling in the Lincoln District can be obtained by calling 362-4265.

INSIDE

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CLASSIFIED
OBITUARIES

HELENA



A Helena Electric Railway Company 'single-trucker' on its way to the Broadwater Hotel and Natatorium in 1891. (Photos courtesy of the Montana Historical Society)

Crowds lined the streets to see Helena's first trolleys

The Helena City Commission's Transportation Coordination Committee recently broached the possibility of returning trolleys to the streets of Helena. Since Helena once sported an extensive street-railway network, some historical context might benefit the current discussions.

In the mid-1880s, Helena included about 10,000 residents, and it rapidly was developing an urban character. Like Butte and Bozeman, Helena's downtown district sat some distance from its Northern Pacific Railroad (N.P.) depot. A street-railway connection proved the answer in all three cities. Thus began the development of a Helena street-car system that would last for more than 40 years.

The Helena Street Railway Company (HSRC) pioneered the field in 1886. Incorporators included Charles A. Broadwater, Charles W. Cannon, Henry M. Parchen, John M. Holter, Daniel A.G. Flowerree, and Anton B. Wilson. Its workmen laid track from Bridge Street to the N.P. depot, down the middle of Main Street and Helena Avenue. A one-way ticket cost ten cents.

WHEN THE FIRST horse-drawn coaches appeared on September 25, 1886, the *Helena Daily Herald* reported: "Crowds lined the streets to see the cars, and small boys hitched rides. The inauguration of the Helena Street Railway Company today marks an era in the city that foreshadows wonderful changes in all other things that presage the requirements of a great metropolis."

Helena's justifiably crowded: HSRC's September 25 run marked the initiation of all street-railway transportation in Montana.

In 1889 the Helena Street Railway Company extended to five miles of track and showed a profit for the third consecutive year. The line's success drew competitors into the field. Helena realtors quickly discovered the advantages of street-car access. As soon as tracks linked a remote addition to the business district, lot prices in the addition inflated. So, Helena real-estate men financed several city street-railway companies in the late 1880s.

CHARLES A. BROADWATER, one of the organizers of the HSRC, incorporated the Helena Electric Railway Company (HERC) in 1890. His cars carried passengers from the downtown, from the Montana Central (Great Northern) Railway depot, and from the Northern Pacific depot, to his brand-new hotel and natatorium on the west side of town.

DAVE WALTER



MORE QUARRIES FROM LAST CHANCE GULCH

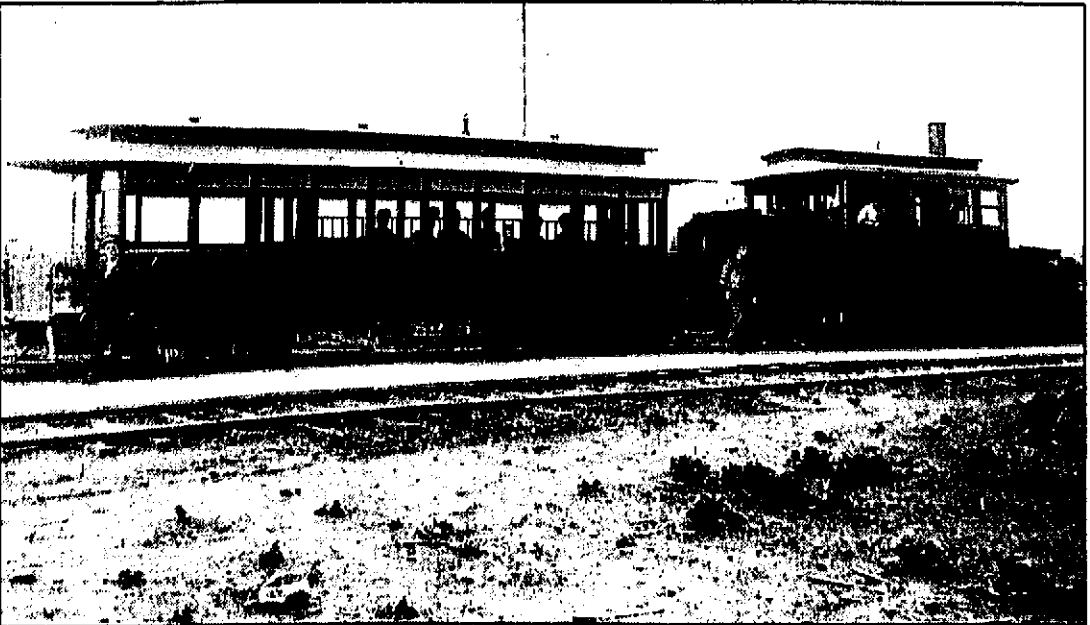
Former Helenan Rex Myers, in his outstanding 1969 Master's thesis, "The History of Street Railways in Helena, Montana, 1883-1923," notes that Broadwater's line became Montana's first operational electric street railway. When the HERC began service on May 25, 1890, the *Helena Daily Herald* trumpeted: "Electricity has been harnessed to do our bidding, and under its subtle force the street car glides swiftly along, enabling the owners... to scatter the blessing among the thousands."

BY 1890 HELENA'S POPULATION had reached more than 13,000. Helenans supported four operating street railways, with two more under construction. Tracks radiated from the business district to various residential additions, as well as to the Northern Pacific depot. Three companies used horse power to pull cars, two relied on coal-burning steam "dummy" engines, and one depended on electricity. The horse-powered trains proved the most expensive to operate.

Problems, however, quickly beset these street-car businesses. With so many companies in the field, none could turn a profit. For example, the Helena, Hot Springs and Smelter Railroad carried almost 154,000 passengers between May 1 and November 30, 1889 — and received \$18,000 in gross revenue — but still fell deeper in debt.

So, during the early 1890s, Helena's sundry street-car lines consolidated, simply to survive. The severe financial Crash of 1893

(More on TROLLEYS, page 2C)



The Helena, Hot Springs and Smelter Railroad passenger car No. 2, being pulled by the Helena Motor Railway's steam dummy 'Capitalist' in 1889.

Superfund update

Site near Ryan Park to be fenced; ballfield soil tested

By EVE BYRON
IR Staff Writer

Additional tests are being performed on a new state Superfund site near the Ryan Park ballfields, with the site being fenced by next week, a state official said.

Soil in the ballfield was tested every 30 feet, especially along the baselines, said Jane Heath, state Superfund information officer. The baseline tests are important because that's where youths would be running and kicking up the most dirt.

Workers from the state mining offices also did "sieve tests" of the powdery, sterile mill tailings on the two- to three-acre site northwest of Joslyn and Brady streets just outside Helena city limits.

"They run samples of tailings through a sieve and find out what amount is really fine-grained and can be picked up by winds and inhaled by people," Heath said Tuesday. "... Then they'll take those fine particles and samples and analyze it so see if it has heavy metals in it. Sometimes contaminants attach themselves to large particles. Obviously, there is dust out there, but we're hoping it doesn't have heavy metals attached to it."

Initial tests in August showed arsenic levels of between 8,510 and 29,300 parts per million on the site. That's about 60 times greater than arsenic levels found in contaminated East Helena soils. Lead levels are between 557 and 9,230 parts per million, with action usually taken on sites with between 400 and 1,000 parts per million.

The tailings are attributed to an ore mill operated in the 1930s by the Montana Lead Company. Along with the ballpark, a mobile home park is located within a block of the site, and a trailer house sits atop some of

the tailings. The state is continuing its search for a responsible party to pay for cleanup.

Children are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning, which can cause learning difficulties and behavior problems. Arsenic is a known carcinogen.

The additional tests and fencing were done at the request of Dr. Robert Williams, an environmental toxicologist with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry in Atlanta. He said the site is a definite environmental hazard that he doesn't want to see turn into a health hazard.

"I see it as a potential health threat based on the levels of heavy metals found in the mine tailings on the site and considering how close it is to the mobile home park and ballfield," Williams said. "Two samples on the baseball diamond isn't enough. They may have missed some hot spots."

He also asked that the state apply dust suppression techniques to minimize human exposure.

The state Superfund office, in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark City/County Health Department, issued a health advisory in August when the site was discovered in August. Initial tests of the area surrounding the site and nearby wells didn't show abnormal heavy metal levels, and blood tests of residents in the area also didn't reveal any abnormalities.

But Williams and local officials warn that children who have actually played on the site probably should have additional tests of their hair and fingernails, which would reveal any long-term poisoning.

Results from the soil tests are expected in about three weeks, and a public meeting tentatively is set for the first week in October, Heath said.

Kindrick Field improvements on City Commission agenda today

By EVE BYRON
IR Staff Writer

Formal action on a \$390,000 promise to improve Kindrick Legion Field is expected during a special Helena City Commission meeting at 4 p.m. today.

Commissioners gave city staff members approval Aug. 19 to send a letter to the Milwaukee Brewers, guaranteeing the costly improvements will be made to the ballpark to bring it up to Major League Standards.

Commissioners don't know where the money will come from or who will pay it back, but they're willing to make the commitment in an effort to keep Pioneer League baseball in Helena.

If a plan wasn't in place by Aug. 20, Helena ran the risk of losing Player Development Contracts with the Milwaukee Brewers. Under those contracts, the major league team underwrites costs of the young players on the Helena Pioneer League team, in the hopes that some of these players will become Milwaukee Brewers.

Milwaukee recently told the city that it needs more of a commitment than just a letter from city staff members, City Manager Bill Verwolf said Wednesday.

"They need something where the commission made a decision and not the staff. They need formal action of some kind," Verwolf said. That action can't be taken at a work session, which is where the commissioners initially gave approval to send the letter.

Verwolf said that as far as he knows, a decision hasn't been made on whether the Player Development Contract will be renewed. But even if the contract isn't continued, Helena still could have a Pioneer League team.

"The Pioneer League is telling us that whether the Milwaukee Brewers wants to do it or not, as a Pioneer League they can still have a team here," Verwolf said. "We have been affiliated with two different teams that I know of: the Gold Sox and the Phillies — when that PDC fell through, we got the Brewers."

SCHOLARSHIPS

The school year has started and school officials are already thinking of all the opportunities for graduating seniors. These are just a few of the scholarships that will be available.

■ Malmstrom Officers' Wives Club Scholarship — Any senior whose parent is currently on active duty, retired from or a deceased/retired member of the Air Force. Deadline March 26.

■ Schering/Key Asthma Athlete of the Year Scholarship — \$3,500 for any senior with asthma who has excelled at academics and athletics. Deadline April 1.

■ Academics, Athletics and Arts Scholarship — \$500, must attend a Montana School and have participated in at least two years of arts and athletics. Deadline April 1.

■ Soroptomist International of Helena Scholarship — \$1,500 for a senior girl who will be attending a Montana college or university. Deadline April 1.

■ International Air Academy — \$500 — must have an interest in an airline or travel career. Deadline April 1.

■ Montana Mining Association Scholarship — Montana Tech. Deadline April 1.

■ Peter Nelson Scholarship — \$500 to the Helena Vo-Tech. Deadline April 8.

■ Lewis and Clark Retired Teachers and School Personnel Association Scholarship — must study education at a Montana college or university. Deadline April 9.

■ Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association Scholarship — \$500, must be seeking a career in law enforcement. Deadline April 15.

Scholarship applications and information for these and other scholarship opportunities are available in the high school Student Services Office.

CITY DIARY

TODAY IN HELENA

- 7 p.m. — Growing Friends meeting at 7 p.m. in Room 309 of the City County Building.
- 7 p.m. — Helena Middle School parent night.
- 7 p.m. — Jefferson School open house until 8 p.m.

ORGANIZATIONS

ACA/Recovering Adult meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m. upstairs at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 449-7778.

Alcoholics Anonymous Thursday meeting times. Call 443-0438. (C) Closed meetings, (O) Open meetings and (ns) non-smoking.

- 6:45 a.m. — (c), Jorgenson's Restaurant.
- 7:45 a.m. — Boulder Hot Springs, Main Lobby (C)(NS).
- Noon — (ns)(c), St. Peter's Episcopal Church.
- Noon — 621 N. Main.
- 5:30 p.m. — (c), 621 N. Main.
- 6 p.m. — (o) Dairy Queen, back room in Boulder.
- 6:45 p.m. — 621 N. Main (o).
- 7 p.m. — Serenity House, Lincoln, (o) (ns).
- 7 p.m. — Women's meeting, Plymouth Congregational Church, 400 S. Oakes (c)(ns).
- 7 p.m. — (o)(NS), New Life Lutheran, 5980 N. Montana.
- 7:30 p.m. — 1331 Hollins (ns)(c).
- 8 p.m. — (ns)(c), St. Paul's Methodist Church.
- 8 p.m. — (o), 621 N. Main.

Al-Anon Family Group meetings for Thursday. 9:30 a.m. — Thursday Morning AFG (babysitting), St. Paul's Methodist Church, 505 Logan (bride's room).

7:30 p.m. — Thursday Night AFG, St. John's Episcopal Church in Townsend.

8 p.m. — 621 N. Main.

Narcotics Anonymous meeting at noon at the Helena Indian Alliance.

Alcoholics Triumphant meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Hannaford Street Baptist Church, 830 N. Hannaford.

Overeaters Anonymous meeting at noon at St. Paul's Methodist Church Half Way Up Room, 505 Logan.

(More on DIARY, page 2C)