

Sunny, colder

Details 2A

28° High 5° Low

SPORTS

SNOWBALL MELEE INTERRUPTS FOOTBALL GAME

▶ 1B



NATION

THREE TRAINS COLLIDE; ONE DEAD

▶ 3A



INSIDE

Dec 24, 1995

Lottery numbers

THE MONTANA INDEPENDENT RECORD

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Incumbents hold lead

By CHARLES S. JOHNSON
IR State Bureau

If the 1996 elections were held today, the incumbents for governor, the Senate and Congress would win by varying margins.

The Montana Lee Newspapers poll shows Republican Gov. Marc Racicot with huge leads over his primary election foe, Rob Natelson, and his potential general opponent, Chet Blaylock. Democratic U.S. Sen. Max

Baucus and Rep. Pat Williams also have leads against over their prospective opponents, although not by as large margins as Racicot does.

The Lee poll, done by Political/Media Research, a Washington, D.C., polling firm, showed Racicot topping Natelson in the Republican primary by a 71 to 9 percent margin, with 20 percent undecided.

Racicot and Natelson each ran stronger with women, as Racicot leads him 72 to 10 percent among the Republican women polled,

while the governor is ahead 70 to 8 percent among the Republican men polled.

(The Republican primary portion of the poll included 238 registered voters who said they would likely vote in the GOP primary. That portion of the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 7 percent.)

The larger poll queried 817 Montanans who are registered to vote and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percent.

In the complete poll, 66 percent of those surveyed said they

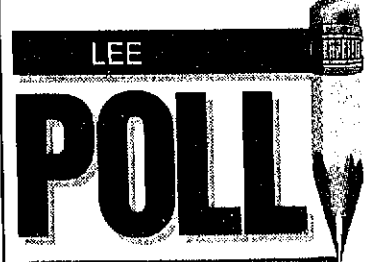
would re-elect Racicot if the election were held today, while 29 percent said they would consider someone else and 5 percent would vote to replace him.

"I would say he's won," said pollster Del Ali, noting Racicot's 66-percent re-election number. "That's a landslide."

Normally, anything more than 50 percent is considered a sign of strength by pollsters.

If the election were held today, Racicot would defeat Democrat

(More LEAD, page 8A)



Page 8A: Racicot approval still more than 70 percent

Monday: Taxes, anti-government groups and other issues

How the poll was conducted

Political/Media Research Inc., a Washington, D.C., polling company, conducted this poll for the four Montana Lee Newspapers — the Billings Gazette, (Butte) Montana Standard, Helena Independent Record and (Missoula) Missoulian.

The polling company, which polls for newspapers and broadcast stations in most states, has polled for Lee Newspapers in Montana since 1990.

The polling company interviewed 817 registered voters — 412 women and 405 men —

(More POLL, page 8A)

HITTING A HIGH NOTE

Cathedral's bells, chimes have been the sound track of Helena's history

The bell tower of St. Helena's Cathedral is as close to heaven as it gets in Helena.

From the bells' perch high in the cathedral's northern steeple, one looks down on the roofs of downtown Helena.

Once, maintenance engineer Dan Corbett stood there above clouds hanging low over the city.

There are a flight of stairs, two ladders and a trap door between the cathedral's main floor and a small landing beneath the bells.

From the landing, another ladder leads upward to the first tier of 11 bells. At the bells, there is no solid floor. Those who venture there walk on steel beams and timbers.

A fourth ladder leads to the upper, larger, tier of four bells.

From there, it is about 150 feet to the ground below. A fifth ladder disappears upward into the tiled spire.

THERE ARE NAMES on the bells. Cast onto each of the 15 bronze

bells is "In memory of Mary Margaret Cruse, by her father, Thomas."

Cruse commissioned the casting of the bells soon after his daughter's death. He donated the bells to the church in her memory.

There also is other writing on the bells.

Each of them is dedicated to one of the 15 mysteries of the rosary and bears an appropriate inscription.

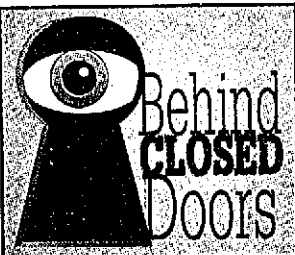
For example, one bell is dedicated to the Nativity, another to the resurrection.

Then, over the years, other names have made their way onto the bells.

Visitors have left behind dozens of names and dates on the inside of the bells — the oldest signed in 1916 and still easy to read.

ONLY THE FOUR largest of the bells swing, and, when they do, they strike the lowest tones of all the bells. Physics dictates that the larger the

(More BELLS, page 8A)



The Independent Record's series "Behind Closed Doors" continues today with a climb into the bell tower of the St. Helena's Cathedral.

Maintenance engineer Dan Corbett gets a birds-eye view of Helena from the bells in St. Helena's Cathedral.

Stories and photos by Grant Sasek



Rich Roeder

Noted historian Roeder dies

By IR Staff and The Associated Press

Richard Roeder, a noted Montana historian and professor emeritus of history at Montana State University, died in Helena early Saturday morning after a long illness. He was 65.

Roeder wrote numerous articles on Montana's cultural and political history but probably was best known as a co-author, with Michael P. Malone and William L. Lang, of "Montana: A History of Two Centuries," considered to be the definitive history of the Treasure State.

He and Malone — who is now president of MSU — also collaborated on two other works, "The Montana Past: An Anthology" and "Montana As It Was: 1876."

"Rich really loved Montana and its history," Malone said Saturday in Bozeman. "He was a true scholar, but he had a touch for getting to the bottom of things" by doing extensive grassroots research.

(More ROEDER, page 8A)

ABOUT THE BELLS

THE CATHEDRAL of St. Helena is patterned after the Cathedral of Cologne, Germany and is a near replica of the "Votive Church" of Vienna.

The cathedral contains 11,693 square feet of stained glass with 59 windows depicting Old and New Testament events.

There are 29 statues on the cathedral's exterior. Some of them depict saints but also included among the statues are representations of Copernicus, Dante, Gutenberg and Christopher Columbus.

Although the building has two steeples, all of the bells are located in the cathedral's northern steeple. The southern steeple is empty. . .

. . . BEFORE THE 15 bronze bells were hoisted into place in St. Helena's Cathedral, they were blessed.

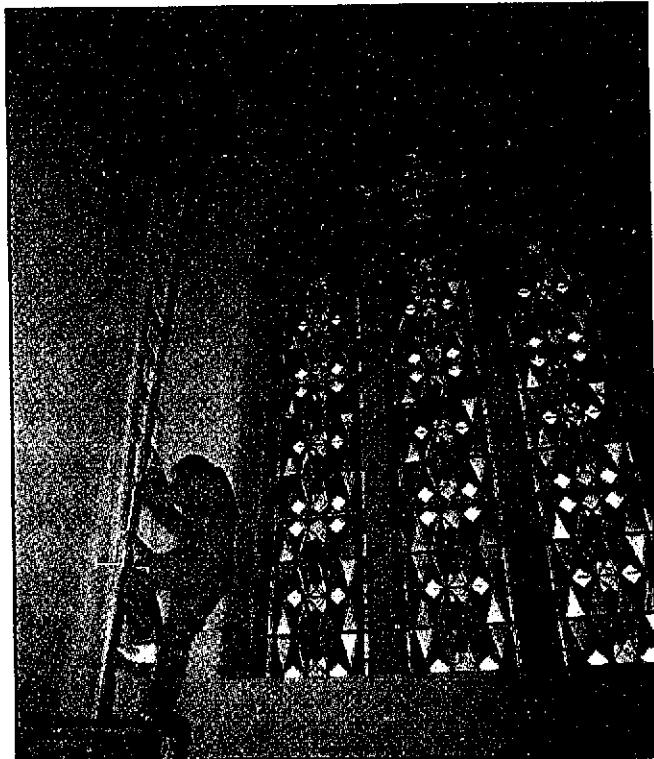
Each bell had a sponsor and was washed inside and out with holy water, anointed with oil and bathed in the fumes of incense. During it all, psalms were recited.

The ceremony was led by Bishop John Carroll, who described the bells as "the great preacher."

The bells were hoisted into place on Aug. 24, 1914.

The first time they were heard over Helena was on Sept. 2 when one was tolled to mark the passing of Pope Pius X. . .

. . . THE HEAVIEST of the 15 bells weighs 3,500 pounds. The lightest weighs 525 pounds. Together the bells weigh 17,725 pounds or nearly nine tons.



There are metal ladders and wooden ladders that one must climb from the choir loft to reach the bells in the cathedral's northern steeple.

TRACK SANTA...

...On his journey.

The IR Connection will update his location every hour between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. today.

Call 442-3700 Ext. 6635 (Noel)

Fire truck driver accused of DUI

By (Butte) Montana Standard

BOULDER — A firefighter for the Jefferson City Volunteer Fire Department pleaded innocent Friday to a drunken-driving charge that alleges he was driving a fire truck at the time.

Perry Hughes, 50, of Jefferson City entered the plea before Jefferson County Justice of the Peace Dennis Giulio.

He was arrested Thursday afternoon by a Montana Highway Patrol officer for allegedly driving under the influence while responding to a fire, County Attorney Valerie Wilson said.

Hughes was driving another firemen in a fire truck as they responded to a possible brush fire along Interstate 15 at about 4:40 p.m. Thursday, Wilson said.

A highway patrolman noticed alcohol on his breath, she said.

Prosecutors allege Hughes had a blood-alcohol content of 0.124 percent.

The legal limit for motorists in Montana is 0.10 percent.

An omnibus hearing is set for Jan. 9, and the trial is expected to begin at 9:30 a.m. Jan. 29.

WATCH AIR WATCH
447-1644

INSIDE:
Three Sections

City/Obit.....	6A
Classified.....	6B
Church.....	3C
Movies.....	4B
Markets.....	8C
Opinion.....	4A
Sports.....	1B
Television.....	4C