

No Governor's Cup Results

■ SORRY. Because of computer problems at BlueCross BlueShield, runners' times weren't available to be published in today's Independent Record. We will be able to include the times in Monday's paper. ■ The winners' times are listed inside on 1B.

\$1.50

INSIDE

June 7, 1998

Lottery numbers

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Guardian's facelift

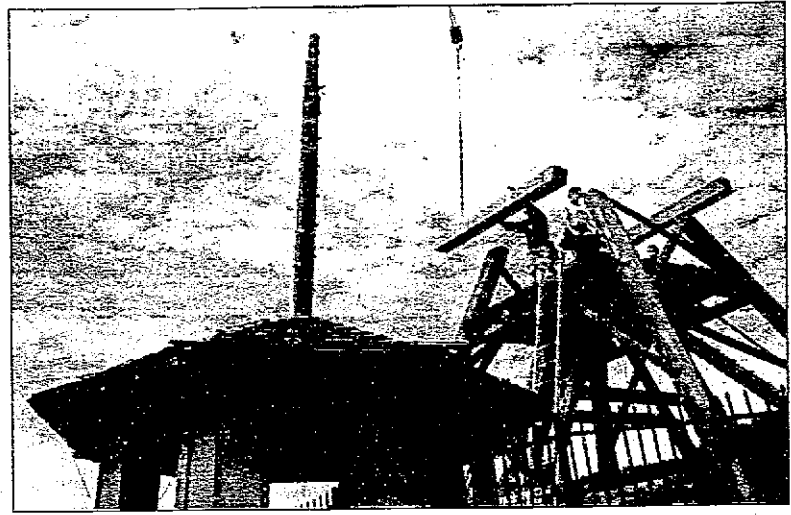
Volunteers make repairs on Helena's symbol

By MARK GOLDSTEIN
IR Staff Writer

One of Helena's oldest and most recognizable symbols got a new lease on life over the weekend. A construction crew, using donated materials and labor, performed some crucial repairs on the Guardian of the Gulch, the old fire tower that overlooks the downtown walking mall. Derek Brown, of Derek Brown Construction, said he offered his company's services to the city

after reading an IR story last December. The story detailed how, after two years of illuminating the fire tower with Christmas lights during the holiday season, the city would not light it in 1997. Lights broken by the infamous June 1997 hailstorm couldn't be replaced because the 134-year-old tower's upper platform had rotted, making it unsafe for workers to stand on. The tower was built on a hill overlooking downtown Helena.

(More GUARDIAN, page 8A)



Employees of Derek Brown Construction prepare to place a new timber on the Guardian of the Gulch fire tower in downtown Helena Saturday morning.

IR photo by Mark Goldstein

Man is arrested after house fire

By MARK GOLDSTEIN
IR Staff Writer

The investigation into the Friday night blaze at one of Helena's historic mansions continued Saturday, and the city fire marshal said the cause still is under investigation.

However, after the smoke cleared, a bizarre tale began to unfold.

Helena Police Chief Troy McGee said officers responded at 8:27 p.m. Friday to a report of an assault at 12 S. Benton Ave., at approximately the same time the fire was reported.



IR photo by Mark Goldstein

A firefighter peers through a hole burned in the roof of a house at 12 S. Benton Ave. Saturday afternoon.

Firefighter who was taken to the hospital doing well — 8A

apartment when he heard "a lot of banging noises," followed by the building's fire alarm.

Martin called 911 and tried to warn other tenants about the fire, but when he went outside, Rohrschreib — who had a pistol in his hand — began yelling at him and hit him in the face. The officers

They found the tenant of the burning apartment, 48-year-old Harry Anthony Rohrschreib, standing naked outside the house. McGee said Rohrschreib refused to cooperate with the officers, became belligerent and tried to kick them. The officers used pepper spray to subdue him and transported him to St. Peter's Hospital.

While at the hospital, the officers learned one of the building's other tenants, Brad Martin, wanted to file assault charges against Rohrschreib, McGee said. Martin told officers he had been in his

(More FIRE, page 8A)



IR photos by Jon Ebell

A DAY AT THE RACES

Above: U.S. Olympic gold medal winner Eric Bergoust, right, of Missoula, was in Helena Saturday to fire the gun to start the 5K race. Bergoust, who won gold in the ski aerials at the recent Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, also participated in the race.

Right: Dan Spiess gasps for air while pushing a pair of young children riding in a stroller up Lawrence Street during the 5K.



Be sure to check Monday's IR for a complete listing of all the runners' times.



Cop killers may have made their way back to Colorado

BLUFF, Utah (AP) — Navajo trackers joined hundreds of lawmen Saturday in an expanded search of rugged canyon country where two men suspected of killing a Colorado policeman are believed to be hiding out.

Search teams that converged on this small town when a third suspect turned up dead along a riverbank were moving slowly westward as well as back toward Colorado after two days of an intense search around Bluff.

San Juan County Sheriff Mike Lacy said police

received "intelligence that they worked their way back into Colorado."

He said the theory that the two surviving fugitives may have doubled back was based on "tips and some other things." He would not elaborate.

Searchers are concentrating on an area stretching about five miles east and west of Bluff in southeastern Utah, which includes a portion of the country's largest Indian reservation.

The Navajo trackers called in to help the search are a special unit of the Navajo Nation police force

trained in locating lost hikers and fugitives.

While police scoured the wilderness, residents of this tiny town were beginning to worry — not about their safety, but their bank accounts.

Authorities had shut off access to the town during the peak tourist season when travelers come to see the colorful formations of Monument Valley and tour nearby ruins.

"It's really eerie in town with nobody here but

(More KILLERS, page 8A)

It's really eerie in town with nobody here but the cops and us.'

OVERALL, THE agency wants \$173,060 over the next two years in general fund money and wants the authority to spend \$2.59 million in other money, most of which would be fees collected.

(More DEQ, page 8A)

Page 7B
Albino koala makes debut in the limelight

Scientists wonder how to tell the public when asteroids are in the neighborhood

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — Following March's false alarm about an asteroid coming dangerously close to Earth in the 21st century and two Hollywood summer blockbusters about cosmic collisions, experts met Saturday to plan methods for asteroid warnings that won't trigger mass panic.

"Collisions with the Earth is a topic that is so prone to sensationalism that we must be extremely careful about how we communicate new discover-

ies," said Richard P. Binzel, a planetary science professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It took the (March) event to wake us up."

A March 11 report that Asteroid 1997XF11 was headed to within 30,000 miles of Earth's center — and could hit — in October 2028 was front page news and the top story on evening TV news/broadcasts.

The report from the International Astronomical Union was quickly

debunked by astronomers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena who recalculated the asteroid's likely path and found it would miss the Earth by 600,000 miles.

"There's a great misperception in the public that for one day there was a possibility that the asteroid would hit in 2028," said Paul W. Chodas, the JPL astronomer whose calculations put

(More ASTEROIDS, page 8A)

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