

# Killers

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the cops and us," art gallery owner John Labounty told reporters gathered at a roadblock outside town. "They've got the rabbits real scared."

The roughly 300 residents of Bluff had only been allowed to return home late Friday after being evacuated Thursday when some 500 law enforcement officers converged on the area after San Juan County sheriff's Deputy Kelly Bradford was wounded.

Bradford was shot while checking a report of a camouflage-clad man firing at a motorist.

Within hours, the body of fugitive Robert Matthew Mason, 26, of Durango, Colo., was found at a campsite about five miles east of

Bluff. He was dead of a possibly self-inflicted gunshot.

Mason was one of three men wanted in the killing of a Cortez, Colo., police officer on May 29. The two other men still being sought were identified as Alan "Monte" Pilon, 30, of Dove Creek, Colo., and Jason Wayne McVean, 26, of Durango, Colo.

The three men are accused of raking the Colorado officer's cruiser with automatic weapon fire when they were pulled over in Cortez, roughly 50 miles from Bluff, in a stolen vehicle. Two other officers were wounded as they pursued the gunmen, who fled into the rugged countryside.

Maps found at the campsite where Mason was found were proving helpful, Lacy said.

# DEQ

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Simonich said some fee increases would be imposed to cover the new hiring costs, particularly in the area of air-quality permitting.

The 1997 Legislature gave the department the authority to hire 17 new employees for two new programs.

This time, Simonich said, there are no new programs, but we're "trying to fill the programs we already have mandates for."

**SIMONICH SAID THE** department is seeking to use money other than general fund because it recognizes the state budget will be tight and because lawmakers have indicated fees, paid for by the beneficiary of the program, are the more appropriate funding source.

"We're certainly optimistic and we're going to stay optimistic," said Simonich. "We've had a lot of good conversations with legislators and legislative committees to where they understand what we're up against."

**ANNE HEDGES**, program director for the Montana Environmental Information Center, said the department would benefit from having more employees, although it isn't a cure-all.

"I think they are really trying to address some of the problems going on over there and there are

some serious problems especially in subdivision review," said Hedges. "I think that short staff is not always the problem, a lot of time the problem is a lack of will, but it's a place to start."

**SIMONICH SAID** the top priorities are hiring two employees in the subdivision program and three in air quality permitting and compliance over the next two years. He said the department "made a real hard cut" at trying to determine where it had the money to support new hires.

"WE DO recognize we are understaffed in a variety of areas," said Simonich. "That's why the workload is pressuring us at this point in time and we probably could use more FTE (full-time employees) than we asked for."

Simonich said department spending comes from three areas: state general fund, federal money and state special revenue, such as fees and resource indemnity trust money.

He said the general fund typically makes up about 10 percent of the department's budget.

**THE DEPARTMENT** budget for fiscal 1998 and 1999 is \$59.8 million, \$5 million of which is state general fund. It is seeking a \$909,000 increase in state funding in fiscal 2000 and a \$963,000 increase in fiscal 2001.

# Guardian

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town after fires ravaged the area when the Queen City was still a fledgling mining village. It carries the city's official seal and is one of the oldest structures still standing in Helena.

"It's a symbol of Helena, and I couldn't think of a better civic project to do," said Brown, who's lived here for 25 years.

Brown mentioned the project to his employees, who eagerly offered to work for free.

The covered observation deck was lifted off the tower's legs Saturday morning and the huge support timbers on which the deck sat were replaced.

Brown said the plans also include replacing the entire upper deck and installing a new stairway.

Marks Ranch and Lumber in Clancy donated the custom-cut, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-square timbers. Marks-Miller Post and Pole, also in Clancy, pressure-treated them to protect against rot.

Intermountain Lumber and United Building Materials of Helena donated materials for the decking and a new stairway. Pacific Steel and Recycling chipped in with bolts and other hardware, and Big Sky Ready Mix offered the use of a crane.

All in all, Brown said, \$5,000 to \$10,000 worth of donated materials and labor will go into the project, which should be completed in just a few days.

But in a project with such historical significance, money is irrelevant, he said.

"It's not something you put a price on," Brown said. "I'll bet when they put it up, nobody charged them for it."

# LOTTERY

Saturday Powerball numbers: 16-24-26-28-42, Powerball 24. Estimated jackpot: \$16 million.  
 Saturday Wild Card numbers: 2-7-9-15-23-27 Wild Card Ace of Hearts. Estimated jackpot: \$1,654,000.  
 Saturday Cash 4 Life numbers: 00-27-50-58.  
 Saturday Montana Cash numbers: 1-8-18-20-34. Estimated jackpot: \$40,000.

# Fire

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arrived on the scene at that time, McGee said.

When officers at the hospital advised Rohrschreib he was under arrest, the man refused to go with them.

"He tried to kick the officers, he tried to bite the officers, he tried to spit on the officers," McGee said.

The officers warned hospital personnel they would have to use pepper spray, and Rohrschreib sprayed a second time. McGee said the spray was confined to a small room.

The officers managed to handcuff Rohrschreib, but also were forced to tie his feet, place a pillowcase over his head and wheel him out of the hospital on a gurney in order to take him to jail, McGee said.

Rohrschreib was charged with felony assault, felony assault of a police officer, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct. He was being held without bond in the Lewis and Clark County Jail Saturday night.

Investigators did recover a handgun near where Martin said he was assaulted. Two shotguns, a rifle and several hundred rounds of ammunition also were recovered Saturday from Rohrschreib's gutted apartment.

The stone-walled house, which was built in the early 1880s by Helena's first doctor, was

# Helena firefighter is doing well

By MARK GOLDSTEIN  
 IR Staff Writer

A Helena firefighter injured in Friday's blaze was still being held for observation at St. Peter's Hospital Saturday afternoon.

Lt. Joel King experienced chest pains and collapsed after hauling hoses up and down the burning building's stairway for about 30 minutes, his wife, Cynthia, said.

King, 43, was transported by ambulance to the hospital, where he underwent tests which showed no damage to his heart, she said.

concealed spaces" that hid flames from the firefighters, he said.

Firefighters remained at the scene throughout the night, Zettel said.

A "sniffer dog" capable of detecting accelerants was at the scene Saturday, and investigators have not ruled out arson as a cause of the blaze, Zettel said. He wouldn't comment further, saying the fire was still under investigation.

converted to seven apartments in 1967, said Dave Hunter, who bought the building in 1978. The building had two apartments on each floor, plus one in the basement.

Helena Fire Marshal Fritz Zettel said the third floor, where Rohrschreib's apartment was located, suffered "extensive fire and smoke damage" while the first two floors were limited to water damage.

Efforts to extinguish the fire were hampered by a lack of fire walls, which is typical of that era of construction, Zettel said. In addition, the building had been remodeled several times and "they had a lot of

# Bomb goes off on train in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — A powerful bomb tore through a cross-country passenger train Sunday as it traveled through southern Sindh province in Pakistan, killing 20 people and wounding 25 others, many seriously.

The train was barely three miles outside Sukkur, 120 miles north of the provincial capital of Karachi, when the bomb shattered the train, police officials said.

The train was headed toward the northwest frontier city of Peshawar when the explosion occurred shortly before dawn, officials said.

There was no immediately claim of responsibility for the bombing, but the government previously blamed its uneasy neighbor India for explosions in southern Sindh province and in its eastern Punjab province, which also borders India.

A bombing Friday of a theater that killed three people in eastern Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, was blamed on India.

Both Pakistan and India routinely blame each other for acts of terrorism on their soil. The two countries have fought three wars since the South Asian subcontinent gained its independence in 1947 from Britain.

# Asteroids

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those frightened by the report at ease. "According to our calculations, there never was a chance the object would hit the Earth."

In the aftermath, scientists began thinking about how they could avert another scare, although efforts to delay release of data could be difficult given the increasingly free flow of scientific information through the Internet.

**SINCE THAT TIME**, Hollywood has put killer asteroids and comets into the public mind with the "Deep Impact" and "Armageddon," as well as made-for-TV movies earlier this year.

In light of the heightened awareness, the National Research Council's Committee on Planetary and Lunar Exploration brought together astronomers who identify and track asteroids, experts in risk management, seismologists with experience in earthquake and volcano warnings and reporters.

**THE MAIN PROBLEM** in reporting new asteroid discoveries is that only a fraction that initially seem potentially hazardous turn out to be headed close to Earth once scientists refine orbital calculations.

"It is extremely unlikely that we're going to have an asteroid come with a real possibility of a

collision," Chodas said, adding that 15 minutes after he had the XF11 data in hand, his calculations found "zero threat."

Scientists agree that peer review of initial observations — standard procedure in science — is essential.

**IN APRIL**, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration drafted "Interim Roles and Responsibilities for Reporting Potentially Hazardous Objects," which recommends consultation and coordination among experts before any public announcements. It might take up to 48 hours for experts to consult with each other, Chodas said. NASA wants an additional 24 hours before the information is released.

Chodas, who computes orbits for asteroids and comets, went into the meeting with an open mind about giving NASA the extra 24 hours, although he wondered what the agency planned to do during that time.

**AN EARTHQUAKE** expert urged openness about any potential threat, as long as the uncertainty of initial observations is clearly explained.

"You can't control the flow of news but you can be as truthful as possible up front," said Alan Lindh of the U.S. Geological Survey. "The press, public and public

**You can't control the flow of news, but you can be as truthful as possible upfront.**

**BINZEL, WHO OPPOSES** mandating a set waiting period, suggested that NASA or the International Astronomical Union establish a code of conduct under which amateur or professional astronomers would seek verification from colleagues before going public.

Without that, false alarms will create "total loss of credibility among the astronomers."

**SCIENTISTS HAVE SO FAR** identified 123 potentially haz-

ardous asteroids that could pass within 5 million miles of Earth. They've discovered 200 of the estimated 2,000 large asteroids that could pass within 30 million miles of Earth.

NASA is spending more money in the next decade to scan space for others.

**ONE OF THE GIANT** rocky chunks is thought to have slammed into Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula 65 million years ago, wiping out dinosaurs and most species.

Scientists know that in 1908, an asteroid exploded over Siberia, flattening nearly 1,000 square miles of forest.

**HARRY Y. "HAP"** McSweeney, the University of Tennessee geologist who chaired the daylong workshop, said it was important that the event was getting U.S. scientists talking, but added that "this is going to have to be an international discussion."

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