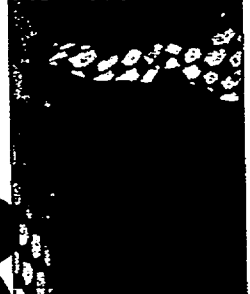




From Maine to you
Lobster fundraiser in works ■ 1C



A new timeline
U.S. may need more troops in Baghdad ■ 2A



INDEPENDENT RECORDER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2006 ■ HELENA, MONTANA ■ VOL 62, No. 311 ■ FIFTY CENTS

Big spending for ballot measures

By **MIKE DENNISON**
IR State Bureau

HELENA — Three conservative-leaning ballot measures may be in legal limbo, but campaign spending on the trio continues unabated, approaching \$1 million in the past six weeks.

A state district judge on Sept. 13 tossed the measures from the Nov. 7 ballot, saying signature-gatherers for constitutional initiatives 97

and 98 and Initiative 154 had engaged in widespread fraud.

That ruling has been appealed to the Montana Supreme Court. But with less than two weeks until the election, the high court has yet to rule.

This legal holding pattern has left opponents and supporters of the three measures little choice but to campaign



Feaver

as though the measures are still on the ballot.

"I don't know that we have a choice," said Eric Feaver, president of MEA-MFT, the union helping lead the campaign against CI-97, which

CI-97 opponents have spent \$640,000 in the past six weeks

would create a constitutional limit on increases in most state spending. "We've been telling people that you've got to vote like you mean it, and not presume the (high) court is going to concur with (keeping it off the ballot)."

CI-97 opponents have taken that advice to the bank, spending \$640,000 in the past six weeks, including \$570,000 on TV and other broadcast advertising.

Most of that money — \$560,000 — came from two sources: The National Education Association and AARP-Montana.

NEA, the national umbrella group for public school teachers'

More **BALLOT**, page 12A

Gargoyles get fabulous

118-year-old statues receive new paint, parts

By **MARTIN J. KIDSTON**
IR Features Writer

How many Helenans does it take to change a gargoyle? It seems the answer is three: One to repair the copper, one to paint it, and one to crack the jokes while the other guys work.

For the first time in 118 years, the scaly gargoyles perched atop the Atlas Building in Downtown Helena were removed their lofty perch to get new wings, tongues and paint.

Craig Harris of the Rocky Mountain Art Factory pounded out the copper while Joe Thielen, owner of Cornerstone Construction, did the painting.

That left the joke telling and details up to Steve Rains, a musician with C'est Bon Jazz. It was Rains, after all, who tipped off the press, saying the repairs were finished and the gargoyles were going home.

"You'd be surprised at the questions I've been getting from the people on the street," said Rains, moments before the gargoyles were carted to the roof. "They're asking, 'What the hell are those?' I give them the story."

The story is that the gargoyles, or "Lizards," as Rains calls them, are 118 years old. They've stood atop the Atlas Building for more than a century, going back to about 1889 — the year the building was constructed for the insurance com-

More **GARGOYLE**, page 12A



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

Joe Thielen, right, and Craig Harris carry the Atlas Block gargoyles to the back of the building, where they will be hoisted onto the roof. Harris rebuilt the copper art pieces, while Thielen painted and mounted them.

Analysis: Burns significant in securing aid

Lobbyists, Baucus also play key roles

By **JENNIFER MCKEE** and **NOELLE STRAUB**
Lee Newspapers

HELENA — A cornerstone of Sen. Conrad Burns' tough re-election campaign is the three-term incumbent's slogan that he is "delivering for Montana."

Burns, a Republican with a coveted seat on the Senate check-writing panel, the Appropriations Committee, boasts that he has brought \$2.2 billion to Montana and that money would disappear if voters replace him with Democrat Jon Tester.

A Lee Newspaper analysis of some \$246 million federal dollars that Burns claims to have brought to one Montana city — Butte — shows that Burns' help in either earmarking or otherwise securing federal dollars for the city and its businesses is, indeed, substantial.

However, the analysis also shows:

■ Lobbyists who formerly worked for Burns also play a role.

■ Not all the money either came to or stayed in Montana.

■ In at least one case, \$1 million included in Burns' \$2.2 billion figure never made it to Montana at all.

It is also unclear how much of the \$246 million Burns brought to Butte completely on his own. Democratic Sen. Max Baucus said he also requested some \$198 million of the same money. At least one local Butte economy official said Baucus is just as important to the city's economy as Burns.

Burns' \$2 billion figure comes from the senator's own compilation, said Erik Iverson, a spokesman for Burns' campaign.

At least some of the list was compiled using old press

Where did all the money go?

By **JENNIFER MCKEE**
IR State Bureau

HELENA — Conrad Burns claims he brought \$2.2 billion to Montana. Here's a sampling of where some of that money went:

In Butte:

Burns secured many millions for several projects pursued by MSE, including one in which the company built a special way to destroy old bombs and other munitions for the Army.

Resodyn Corporation, another Butte company, claims the following:

Amount: \$6.5 million over 2004, 2005 and 2006.

For: Technology to mix materials for propellants.

Amount: \$6.3 million over 2006 and 2007.

For: Research on treatments of wounded soldiers in the field.

In Billings:

Amount: \$4.9 million in 1999 and 2002.

For: Money to secure Pompey's Pillar and build a visitors center at the landmark.

Amount: \$500,000.

For: Money to build a bike and walking trail near Alkali Creek.

Amount: \$7 million, over 2000 and 2001.

For: Sewer and water project for Lockwood.

In Helena:

Amount: \$3.2 million between 2001 and 2005.

For: Improvements to the Helena airport.

Amount: \$13.8 million between 2005 and 2006.

For: Improvements for the Montana Supreme Court.

More **BURNS**, page 12A

Developers seek variances on roads

By **LARRY KLINE**
IR Staff Writer

Two engineers asked Lewis and Clark County commissioners Tuesday to allow the developers of three subdivisions to forgo a number of road improvements suggested by county planners. The engineers said the improvements, which would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, are unfair and costly.

Commissioners will render a decision on the unrelated subdivisions Nov. 2.

Hauser Lake Estates II would create 66 new residential lots, along with five

open lots, on 251 acres north of Deal Lane and west of Lakeside. Another, on two lots in the Hillview Acres Subdivision, would divide a 20-acre parcel north of Prairie Road and east of Applegate Drive into 10 lots. The third would create four five-acre lots north of Prairie Road and west of Diamond Springs Drive.

Engineer Barry Damschen — one of six partners in the Hauser Lake Company, which is developing the land — said a county planning staff requirement to pave most of Deal Lane between York Road and Lake Helena Drive would

cost about \$540,000. The group had planned to pave Deal Lane to the western boundary of the subdivision, which would cost about \$300,000 less. The costs, he said, would be passed on to residents purchasing the lots in the subdivision.

"We don't think that's fair," he said. "If we have to do that, we have to do that. We just don't agree with it."

"We're only generating 40 percent of the traffic, but we're having to pay 100 percent of the cost," he added.

Damschen also took issue with a requirement to pave all internal roads in the subdivision, which he said

would cost close to \$600,000. He asked commissioners to allow the company to pave only the portion that's expected to receive the most traffic, about 1,750 feet, which would cost about \$61,000. Paving only the busiest section would drive yearly maintenance costs down from \$160 per lot to \$34 per lot, Damschen said.

Commission Chairwoman Anita Varone noted Damschen hadn't yet requested a variance on either issue. Damschen said he would file the requests.

Jim Taylor, the engineer

More **ROADS**, page 12A

Inside

■ On the Web at www.helenair.com

■ Call us at 447-4898

City	9A	Nation/World	2A
Classified	4C	Obituaries	10A
Comics/Puzzles	5B	Opinion	4A
Montana	7A	Sports	1B
Movies	7A	Television/Advice	4B
Markets	6B	Weather	2A

Today

Mostly cloudy, breezy, maybe a few sprinkles

43 28

Precipitation: 20% Complete weather 2A



Air quality: 447-1644

Poli ★ ★ ★
Cyberspace for political friends, foes

<http://www.helenair.com/blogs/447>

