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Historical Society Of Montana
Helena, Montana 59601
complimentary

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the daily **Inter Lake**

KALISPELL, MONTANA SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1985 50 CENTS

Weather
Mostly cloudy today and tonight with scattered showers this afternoon and early tonight. High today 60-65. Partly cloudy and warmer Monday.

PACs apply pressure on tax package

WASHINGTON (AP) — The 56 members of the two congressional committees considering tax overhaul legislation raised \$10.4 million in campaign contributions during the first half of the year, Common Cause reported Saturday.

More than \$3.7 million of the contributions to members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee came from political action committees, the fund-raising units created by any number of special-interest groups ranging from doctors to milk producers.

Total contributions and PAC donations were about triple the level for the first six months of 1983, said Common Cause, a citizens' lobbying group. The figures were compiled from reports to the Federal Election Commission.

Noting that the two tax committees are considering legislation to overhaul the income tax, Common Cause President Fred Wertheimer said the figures are evidence that "PAC giving is directly related to legislative decision-making."

"Special-interest groups intent on preserving their tax breaks are providing a sea of PAC dollars to the congressional tax writers," he said in a statement.

Seven of the tax writers accepted no PAC contributions. They are Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., and Reps. Andy Jacobs, D-Ind., Bill Archer, R-Texas, Phil Crane, R-Ill., Willis Gradison, R-Ohio, J.J. Pickle, D-Texas, and William Coyne, D-Pa.

Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., chairman of the Finance Committee, led the list of recipients with \$2.65 million in contributions during the first half of the year, including \$691,015 from PACs. Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., a member of the panel and Senate majority leader, was second with \$833,430, half of it from PACs. Both are expected to seek re-election in 1986.

Rep. Henson Moore, R-La., who is running for the Senate, was the top recipient on Ways and Means with \$695,536, including \$127,750 from PACs.

The only Montana delegate serving on either committee is Democratic Sen. Max Baucus, who received \$7,722 in total contributions, with \$5,040 of that coming from PACs.



Photo By Sai Skrog

Shelter from the storm

Lori Thornton, 2, and her tabby cat wait out Saturday morning's rainstorm while Lori's mother, Lorraine Thornton, Kalispell, was trying to find new homes for three kittens. There were no takers for the kittens at the farmer's market.

Plum Creek logging unit loses building to fire

COLUMBIA FALLS — A fire Saturday morning destroyed the building occupied by Royal Logging Co. in Columbia Falls, destroying several hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment used by Plum Creek Timber Co.'s logging division.

Three people were working in the large, two-story shop when fire broke out shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday, said Columbia Falls Fire Chief Dennis McChesney. No one was injured, but the building and much of its contents were reduced to ash and twisted rubbish. See photo, Page A7.

"It was damn near like a war for a while," said McChesney, whose firemen arrived to find bottled gases and inflated truck tires exploding inside the building.

Columbia Falls and Bad Rock firemen worked in a steady rain, a circumstance McChesney said probably prevented the fire from spreading elsewhere within the mile-long Plum Creek mill complex.

"During those explosions there were a lot of sparks flying out, and they were blowing right over to the lumber stacks," he said.

The Creston and Whitefish fire departments were placed on standby when the threat to adjacent operations was greatest, a Columbia Falls police spokeswoman said Saturday.

Most of the bottles of oxygen and acetylene were removed before they could cause a worse conflagration.

McChesney said he couldn't make a damage estimate, but noted that one logging truck inside the shop was totally destroyed. The worth of the truck and tools in the building could each approach \$100,000, he said. The company had also reportedly just received a large shipment of new truck tires.

Cause of the blaze is undetermined, but the fire apparently started in an area above the tool room that contained a lot of electrical wiring and an unused heater, he said.

Plum Creek's own fire crew took over for the Columbia Falls Fire Department about four hours after the fire began.

DREAM

Putting out welcome mat for disabled

By KAREN FORD
The Daily Inter Lake

DREAM is an appropriate acronym for a group that has high hopes for making the Flathead Valley more accessible and attractive to the handicapped.

The Disabled Recreation and Environmental Access Movement was the brainchild of Dottie Maitland, now the group's president. Maitland, a travel agent, came up with the idea after an encounter with a disabled woman who participated in a tour of the area last summer.

The women had cerebral palsy, Maitland said, and though her "tongue was a little thick," making it hard to understand her, she had a pleasant disposition and wasn't a burden to others on the tour bus.

"She was so indebted for seeing Montana," Maitland said, "(that) she cried when she left."

"When I called her travel agent and said how great it was that she was along, I could feel the man go white at the other end of the line," she said. If the agent had known that the tourist was a disabled person, he would not have allowed her to go, Maitland said.

That attitude made her mad, she said. Though short in stature, Maitland is long on energy and enthusiasm, and she managed to charge up several other local government and business people about opening doors to the handicapped.

Continued on Page A6

Reagan to seek increase of debt limit to \$2 trillion

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan is about to ask Congress for another increase in the government's line of credit, a move that would push the national debt limit beyond \$2 trillion. That's \$2,000,000,000,000.

"Unless I just misread it, I think that's going to be the donnybrook of the year," Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., said last week.

Treasury Department officials are scheduled to appear before a Senate Finance subcommittee Sept. 10 — the day after the Senate returns from its summer recess — to officially request an increase in the current debt limit of \$1.824 trillion.

As of last week, the debt had reached \$1.810 trillion.

John Niehenke, acting assistant Treasury secretary for domestic finance, has said the administration will be seeking the increase because the government likely will hit the limit of its authority to borrow money by the end of September.

Niehenke has declined to say how much of a boost will be sought.

Asked if the request would be for a limit beyond \$2 trillion, Arthur Siddon, a Treasury Department spokesman, said, "I think that's fair enough" to assume.

The red-ink budget Congress adopted Aug. 1 estimated the government's borrowing needs would require a debt limit of \$2.078 trillion for next year and up to \$2.5 trillion by 1988.

Since 1975, the national debt has more than tripled. It has doubled just since 1980.

The national debt is the accumulation of all the deficits created over the years by the federal government spending more money than it takes in. Raising the debt limit gives the Treasury authority to borrow to pay the bills.

The government now spends more than \$140 billion a year just to pay the interest on the debt.

Last year, legislators temporarily denied debt limit increases as demonstrations of anger over persistent budget deficits and as attempts to build pressure for action on other issues.

This year, growing resentment over the deficits — running at an annual rate of \$200 billion — already has members of Congress vowing they will block another debt limit increase until more is done to close the gap between what the government takes in and what it spends.

"I will not support any increase in the debt ceiling under any circumstances unless it is accompanied by some structural changes in these deficits," Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., said earlier this month.

Asked if he was advocating the fiscal chaos that might result from the failure to raise the debt limit, Rudman said, "Let me put it this way, I would rather have a little bit of national chaos when the banks are open rather than to wait until the banks close."

"I believe that if we continue to have \$200 billion-a-year deficits that the farm economy... will get worse, that the manufacturing sector will go down and the entire fiscal integrity of this country is in jeopardy," Rudman said, "if not this year then next year, but certainly in this decade."

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