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THURSDAY, June 11, 2009

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# Some border contracts to remain local

By **MICHAEL JAMISON** of the Missoulian

KALISPELL – Montana's small and mid-sized businesses will find more work on government stimulus projects as

U.S. customs officials say they've included a hiring clause for stimulus work

federal agencies encourage big builders to hire local subcontractors.

In addition, federal officials now say Montana's larger

building firms may yet have the chance to bid on even bigger stimulus jobs.

Last week, the General Services Administration

announced it will ask out-of-state companies to make local subcontracting a priority when bidding on Montana border port construction. And on

Wednesday, officials at U.S. Customs and Border Protection confirmed that they, too, have inserted a local-hire clause.

"We want to get these small

See **CONTRACTS**, Page A4

## CURB TRADERS CLOTHING EXCHANGE



**Amy Smith** looks over some of the items at her Hamilton shop, Curb Traders Clothing Exchange, earlier this week. The business offers money or store credit for used brand-name or vintage clothing and shoes, and sells them to other customers.

TOM BAUER/Missoulian

# VALUE IN VINTAGE

Hamilton shop pays well in cash or credit for unique, unusual items

By **BETSY COHEN** of the Missoulian

HAMILTON – It's not often you hear about a business model based on bad Christmas gifts, bad boyfriend gifts or mistake shopping.

But that's the heart of Curb Traders Clothing Exchange. Its soul is quality, one-of-a-kind vintage items you can't find anywhere else.

While other western Montana used clothing stores might have similar inventory, what makes this Bitterroot Valley shop unique is the "exchange" part of its business.

■ **Video:** Take a trip to Curb Traders secondhand shop in Hamilton by going to this story on **Missoulian.com**.

Proprietor Amy Smith offers top dollar for brand-name or unusual items – mostly clothing and shoes – or gives customers the option to take credit and shop among the bountiful racks in her 4,000-square-foot store in downtown Hamilton.

"I see ourselves as a service," Smith said. "We are more of a

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Customers can look over racks of shoes for just the right pair at a fraction of the original retail price.

TOM BAUER/Missoulian

## MISSOULA POLICE

# Report details lawsuit's origins

Chrestenson accused of assault, distress

By **TRISTAN SCOTT** of the Missoulian

A Missoula police detective's behavior toward a female colleague, which is now the basis of a lawsuit, made the city's human resources director "extremely uncomfortable," according to a report on the investigation.

The personnel report entered the realm of public record last week when attorneys for Detective Jamie Merifield filed the papers in Missoula District Court. The document was prepared by the city of Missoula's human resources director, Gail Verlanic, and describes how Merifield's allegations of assault and unsafe working conditions emerged against Detective Richard Dean Chrestenson.

See **REPORT**, Page A5

## FLORENCE

# Accused murderers not eligible for death

By **TRISTAN SCOTT** of the Missoulian

The men accused of killing three women at a Florence hair salon in 2001 will not face the death penalty if convicted of the offenses, according to an order from the U.S. attorney general.

"Notice is hereby given that the Attorney General has directed the government not to seek imposition of the death penalty against either defendant in this matter," Montana U.S. Attorney Bill Mercer wrote in a federal court filing on Tuesday.

Brian Weber, 31, and Lincoln Benavides, 33, are accused of the November 2001 slayings of Brenda Patch, Dorothy Harris and Cynthia Paulus at the Hair Gallery in Florence. The men are both convicted drug dealers and were

See **FLORENCE**, Page A5

# Man recalls grizzly attack in Glacier

## INSIDE

■ Grizzly injures man near West Yellowstone. **Page A5**

By **JIM MANN** Daily Inter Lake

KALISPELL – It happened in a flash, and Thomas Nerison did not have the bear spray he almost always carries on his runs in Glacier National Park.

The 60-year-old Kalispell man was on the Lake McDonald Valley

Trail last Sunday morning, attempting to rendezvous with a group of fellow runners, when he heard a dog bark.

"Within a minute of hearing that dog bark, I heard a commotion behind me," Nerison said. "I saw two grizzly bears running down the trail in the same direction I was going, but

moving much faster."

There was no time to climb a tree, no time to even get out of the way.

"I don't think the bear knew I was there until he was almost upon me. He stopped just short, about three feet from me," Nerison said Tuesday, a day spent mostly on the telephone

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## TODAY'S FORECAST

Mostly sunny High 76° Low 46° **Page A12**



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**Saturday, June 13th Karl Tyler Chevrolet, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
 Registration 9-Noon. Entry fee \$25 for all participating vehicles, sponsorships & donations appreciated.  
**Raffle prizes & door prizes.** **Hosted by:**   
 100% of proceeds go to Montana Hope Project.