

properly to use county for use as a crisis stabilization center.

The move, Bartos said, will ultimately mean county residents in need of urgent mental health assistance receive better care.

"We believe it will provide a more safe environment for those patients who need that specialized care in a voluntary and involuntary setting," Bartos said. "We are supportive of what the commission is trying to do, to create this facility with our contribution."

It does not, however, mean the hospital can transfer to normal operations Room 301 - the room dedicated to mental health crisis care.

See CENTER, Page 7

Forecast

Monday, Aug. 9



High: 83
Low: 55

Chance of thunderstorms

Tuesday, Aug. 10



High: 86
Low: 55

Chance of thunderstorms

Wednesday, Aug. 11



High: 82
Low: 55

Slight chance of thunderstorms

Index

- Obituaries..... 3
- Sports..... 7
- Comics..... 12



DAVID ERICKSON - Ravalli Republic
Dom McAfee of Hamilton checks the temperature of some ribs on Saturday at the Creamery Picnic. McAfee was working with Benny's barbecue catering company to compete in the barbecue competition.

...wanted to look his best if he was going to be repeatedly splashed into a bucket in front of hundreds of gleeful children, so he wore a suit and tie. The sight of a top administrator apparently got the dozens of kids who paid good money to get their shot, more fired up, however.

See PICNIC, Page 6

Spreadbury lawsuits begin pretrial hearings

JEFF SCHMERKER
STAFF REPORTER

Attorneys representing the city of Hamilton and Ravalli County on Friday argued for summary judgment in Michael Spreadbury's sprawling \$3.6 million cases against many of the county's civic and municipal officials.

Arguments were made to District Judge John Larson in Hamilton. The Missoula-based judge said he will deliver a written ruling later.

Spreadbury, an unsuccessful mayoral candidate, is seeking a total of \$3.6 million from the county, city and a Hamilton librarian in three separate lawsuits.

In complaints against the city and county attorney's office, Spreadbury said earlier prosecutions against him were made on improper grounds and with intentional malice. Earlier on Friday Larson held a pretrial hearing on an appeal by Spreadbury over his disturbing the peace conviction this spring.

On Friday, attorneys representing the two offices asked for the cases to be dismissed, saying Spreadbury's claims were not backed by evidence, were based on improper readings of law or were simply nonsensical.

Arguing for the county, attorney Michael King told Larson that most of the county attorney's actions Spreadbury claim were injurious to him were actually protected.

"In Montana you can not claim emotional distress when you are legally entitled to do what you have done," King said.

See SPREADBURY, Page 7

County's junk car removal program funded

JEFF SCHMERKER
STAFF REPORTER

Ravalli County has \$58,734 in state money available this year to implement Montana's junk vehicle removal program.

County commissioners on Friday accepted a low bid offer from Kyle Marvin to

remove junked vehicles under the program.

The program will pay Marvin \$45 per vehicle plus \$4.33 per loaded mile.

The statewide junked cars recycling program makes money available to counties to haul away junked vehicles which are sold as scrap metal;

money from the sale of the metal is used for environmental health programs.

The program in Ravalli County is administered through the environmental health department. It's run partly for health reasons and partly for aesthetic reasons. Junked cars can detract from

property values, and car fluids like oil and antifreeze can leak into and contaminate the groundwater. Under law junked vehicles and vehicle parts must be screened from public view - and that does not mean covering them with a tarp.

See CARS, Page 7

ignated for emergency care, the county had to shuttle patients to a specialized care facility in Missoula. The transfer, done by police officers, was expensive and time consuming and the rate taxpayers paid for the care was costly.

Once Room 301 was often employed simply sitting with patients and making sure they were safe. Up to seven individuals could fall under the hospital's care at once, and it was common for the facility to be treating three to five patients simultaneously.

being covered." Excavation work at the site was to begin this morning, with a winter opening planned. Bartos said the \$650,000 facility, which is being built largely using state money, is a good deal for county taxpayers.

"I think in the big

Spreadbury, continued

Each of Spreadbury's main assertions, King said, were easily refutable, making any claims to emotional distress irrelevant.

"All four lack merit," he said.

Not true, said

Spreadbury.

Prosecutorial immunity did not cover the county attorney in this case, he said, because of the nature of the office's actions.

"I'm not sure how George Corn is entitled to any immunity whatsoever," Spreadbury said.

A key point of Spreadbury's argument is that the trial against him was argued by a law student who, he said, was not properly supervised.

The student was supervised by Assistant County Attorney Bill Fulbright, Spreadbury said, but not in a way he had anticipated.

"This has caused immeasurable and irreparable harm to my life and my future," Spreadbury said. "This is the reason this case has been filed."

But the law governing just what students can do in the courtroom is being improperly referenced, King said.

"There is no factual basis for that statement," he said.

Spreadbury's arguments against the city and its attorney, Ken Bell, focus on Bell's authority to try cases in defense of a non-city

employee. Spreadbury was found guilty this winter of criminal trespass in an incident at the Bitterroot Public Library. Spreadbury said Bell, as city attorney, had no authority to try the case since the library is not a city facility nor its workers city employees.

Spreadbury said Bell could only argue cases in city court.

"That is outrageous," Spreadbury said in explaining how the emotional distress occurred.

"He is lost in space."

The entire case, he said, was without merit since it ought to be impossible to charge someone for trespassing in a public space. What if Bell wanted to prosecute

Reach reporter Jeff Schmerker at 363-3300 or at jeff.schmerker@ravallirepublic.com.

Spreadbury for trespassing while in court, Spreadbury asked.

"It would be another year of fun," he said of the resulting lawsuit.

Natasha Jones, arguing on behalf of the city, said Bell's actions fell within the normal scope of duties of a city attorney.

"There's no case or statute that says (otherwise)," she said.

Spreadbury said several times that if a decision is not in his favor, he'll appeal the case.

Reach reporter Jeff Schmerker at 363-3300 or at jeff.schmerker@ravallirepublic.com.

addition he would like to thank Red Cross staff, boy scouts from Troop 99, Pines Academy for the use of the building, and Bill Nuttall and Lou Jessop for the facility preparation.

Acknowledging that one pint of blood can help save up to three lives, Spencer encourages all eligible donors to schedule an appointment to donate blood soon.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

BRHA holding pet photo contest

Find the cutest, funniest, most outrageous pictures of your adorable pets and submit them to the Bitter Root Humane Association annual Photo Contest. This year we're looking for really funny faces. Each picture should be no larger than 5x7, have your name, address and phone number on the back and be submitted with a \$5 entry fee for each photo. The BRHA staff will pick the 10 finalists.

The winner will be chosen by public vote at the BRHA booth at the Ravalli County Fair. Voting is conducted by financial contribution for your favorite photo(s). All funds raised support the Precious Companions Program which assists with the adoption and care of older animals who come to the shelter.

All entries due by Aug. 27. Mail entries to BRHA, PO Box 57, Hamilton, MT 59840 or bring them to the shelter during business hours.

Free garden tour offered

On Saturday, Aug. 14 at 10 a.m., the Kindzerski organic vegetable garden in Hamilton will be open for a tour. This garden is a fantastic model of a large, sustainable family garden: growing enough food for many, pleasing to the eye, attractive to pollinators and producing quantities of soil amending compost. In this garden, form follows function and the result is well organized, beautiful and inspirational.

This is a free event and directions and more information may be obtained by calling Sam's Spade Garden Tools and Wares at 363-1293.

Cars, continued

The county has worked with Marvin in the past, said Rod Daniel, an envi-

we've actually run out of money and had to discontinue it," he said. "But last

cle over. To learn more about the removal program,

www.ravallcounty.gov. Call 375-6565 for more information.

NOTICE OF POSSIBLE BUDGET INCREASE FROM PROPERTY TAXES