

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2005
HOUSE BILL 741
JOHN M. SHONTZ for Lee Enterprises, Inc.

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 3.21.05
HB 741

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I am John Shontz & I represent Lee Enterprises, Inc.

Lee Enterprises, Inc. in Montana includes newspaper, Montana Magazine, Farcountry Press, Montana's largest book publisher, The Prairie Star, several advertising circulars, and TownNews.com.

We oppose a tax on advertising for several reasons.

First, please understand that we will NOT pay the tax; we will collect the tax on behalf of the state of Montana. Who should we collect the tax from? If advertising is taxed, then Montana's main street businesses, large and small will pay the tax, we will not. Does main street Montana want to pay this tax? That question deserves an answer.

Second, a tax on advertising is clearly taxing both a business input and a business output. If inputs and outputs are both going to be taxed, then ALL BUSINESS INPUTS AND OUTPUTS SHOULD BE TAXED! NO ONE SHOULD BE EXEMPT from collecting the tax their customer's business outputs, regardless of who that customer is.

All business should also pay the tax on all outputs – again regardless of what the output is. Advertising is not the finished product of a newspaper; the actual newspaper is the finished product.

House Bill 741 is, therefore, merely a VAT or valued added tax on Montana's main street's outputs. Finally, we note that not only business will pay this tax. Individuals will also pay the tax. Does Montana want to start down the VAT tax road?

How does this tax affect internet operations. Founded in Big Fork, Montana TownNews.doc is one of American's largest providers of internet services to newspapers – serving over 850 newspapers nation wide. A true, small town Montana success story, should TownNews.com collect taxes on ad revenues collected by it customer newspapers nation wide? If so, why would the company stay in Montana?

Most recently the Florida Legislature imposed this tax and then, within months repealed the tax for many good reasons. Attached are two items. This bill will tax memorials; death and taxes are finally combined. How very sad.

Finally, House Bill 741 proposes that the State of Montana tax prayer. Is this where the state ought to go? Truly? A tax on advertising does not exist in the United States for obvious reasons. It should not exist in Montana either. Thanks you.

MONDAY

OSBORNE, Elsie "Pearl," age 97, of Helena. Visitation hours will be from 4 to 6 p.m. today, March 20, at Retz Funeral Home. Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, March 21, at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Forestvale Cemetery. Those wishing to may send memorials in Pearl's name to an organization or charity of the donor's choice.

WIRTH, Eva May, age 85, of Helena. A memorial service in celebration of her life will be held 2 p.m. on Monday, March 21, at the Retz Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will be at Resurrection Cemetery.

TUESDAY

GIBSON, Kenneth W., age 78, of Helena. Visitation hours will be 1 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 21, at Retz Funeral Home. Funeral services are scheduled for 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the funeral home. Interment with military honor's will follow at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison. Memorials in Kenneth's name are suggested to an organization or charity of the donor's choice.

COX, Esther M., age 76, of East Helena. Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. on Monday, March 21, at Retz Funeral Home. Funeral services are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 22, at the funeral home. Interment will be at 5 p.m. at the Cadotte Ranch in Lincoln. Memorials in Esther's name are suggested to the Montana Historical Society, 225 North Roberts Street Helena, MT 59601.

HARPER, Mildred C., age 93, of Helena. Mildred will be forwarded to Pierce Brothers Vahalla Mortuary in North Hollywood, Calif., for services and burial.

Retz Funeral Home 442-1550

Hagler-Anderson Chapel with officers and members of Helena Lodge # 3 A. F. & A.M. officiating. Military graveside services will follow at Montana State Veterans Cemetery with Lewis and Clark Veterans Council officiating. Family prefers memorials to Algeria Shrine Children's Transportation Fund, P.O. Box 1174, Helena, MT 59624.

PENDING

BRYANT, Charles M., age 65, of Helena. Services are pending and arrangements will be announced when completed.

COUTS, James T., age 20, of E. Helena. Arrangements will be announced when completed.

TOECKES, Alice, age 90, of E. Helena. Arrangements will be announced when completed.

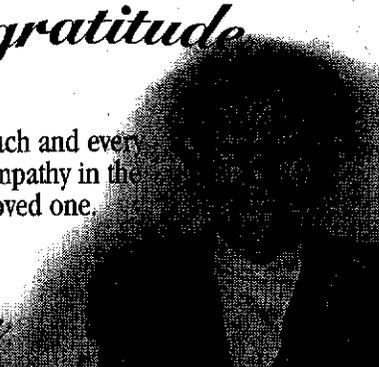
Hagler-Anderson Funeral Home 442-8520

Join us in welcoming home
Corporal Chris Viets,
 US Marines
 March 22, 2005
 7:45 p.m.
 at the Helena Regional
 Airport



With sincere gratitude
 and thanks for each and every
 expression of sympathy in the
 loss of our loved one.

From the family of
Ora Reddy



**WE INVITE YOU
 TO COMPARE**

CREMATION....

Ralph Filcher
A choice that's as simple or as elaborate as you wish.

If you've decided on cremation, you probably have a multitude of questions. We're available to answer your questions, big or small.

Feel free to call us... you will be glad you did.

Big Sky Cremations
 2 West Main, East Helena
 227-2241
The Cremation Specialists

The Family of
Albert W. Gorsich

April 22, 1914 ~ February 22, 2005



would like to say thanks to the Cooney Convalescent Home, especially the nurses and aides for their and concern for "Snuffy." We particularly wish to thank Reverend Tom O'Donnell for the funeral services conducted at Sts. Cyril and Methodist Church; Colleen Mockler for the lovely music; Irene Murgel and her kitchen workers who served the lunch; Retz Funeral Home staff for their kindness; Peter Petek and Charles Aumell of St. Ann's Cemetery; Lewis & Clark Veterans Council for the military services.

We want to express our gratitude to our friends and neighbors who remembered Al in some special way—phone calls, cards, flowers, masses, memorials—and to those who furnished the delicious food dishes.

God bless you all

Elsie Jones
 Dick and Mary Ann Gorsich
 Bill and Ruth Jones
 Charles and Pat Chambers
 And all the Gorsich and Chambers family members



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the Coulter Transfer Co. and later the Rocky Mountain Transfer Company. Vera also worked as a homemaker taking care of their two daughters, Marlene and Sharon, and at several dress and hat shops in downtown Helena.

In the late 1950s she and Frank owned and operated a Kirby vacuum/Bernina sewing machine business in the Grand Hotel on 6th Avenue. When the Grand Hotel burned down in the '60s they moved their business to the Capital Hill Mall, changing the name to PenJand & Co.

Frank died in 1967. In 1968 she met Alex Toeckes, a hard-working, successful wheat farmer at Avalanche Gulch, and they married in 1970. She and Alex traveled, wintered in Las Vegas and had a beautiful home in the East Helena Valley. Alex preceded her in death in 1989.

Vera loved the Lord, her family, whistling while she worked, her flower gardens, cooking/entertaining, shopping at Wal-Mart and watching old movies. She always said she felt like everything she had ever dreamed of wanting had come true; she survived the Depression of 1929, bought the little brick bungalow on Ewing Street, did some traveling, kicked up her heels a bit, became financially sound and owned a Cadillac and Mercedes Benz.

Her grandchildren have fond memories of Friday

yummy cinnamon French toast, sugar-bread, the pink rocking chair and the roll-away bed. Thanks for the memories Mimi.

Surviving Vera are her daughter, Sharon (Bob) Strainer; grandchildren Cynthia (Paul) Buchi, Rhonda (Skip) Score, Tony (Edwina) Strainer and sister-in-law Vi Clements, all of Helena. She also has several great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death is great-grandson, Robert "Bobby" Carl Buchi, in 1983; her brother Rolla Y. Clements in 1990, and most recently her daughter, Donna Marlene Chamberlain on Feb. 17, 2005.

Services will be conducted on Wednesday, March 23, at 2 p.m. from Hagler-Anderson Chapel, interment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the Cooney Convalescent Home, 2555 Broadway, Helena, MT 59601, where both her and her daughter Marlene were cared for with much love and tenderness.

- When: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Where: East Valley Middle School library
- Cost: \$1 per adult (childcare \$1 per child)

Tuesday

March 22

2005 Montana Governor's Conference on Tourism and Recreation "Celebrating the Montana Experience."

- When: March 22
- Where: Red Lion Colonial Hotel
- Contact: <http://travelmontana.state.mt.us/conference>

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail.) Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God. Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, queen of Heaven & Earth. I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (three times). Holy Mary, I place this prayer in your hands (three times). Say this prayer three consecutive days, then you must publish it, and it will be granted to you.

GRATEFUL THANKS - J

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HELENA MONTANA
10TH ANNUAL

Career Fair

Wednesday, April 6, 2005; 11 am-4:30 pm
Carroll PE Center

In the market for a new career?

If you are in the market for a new career or are seeking information on local, statewide and regional businesses, don't miss the 2005 Helena Career Fair!

Network and explore job, internship, and graduate school options. Plus summer job opportunities, resume critiques, and door prizes!

Don't miss out. Mark your calendar today!

WE INVITE YOU
TO COMPARE

CREMATION....

simple or as elaborate as you wish.

cremation, you probably have a multitude available to answer your questions, big or small. us... you will be glad you did.

Cremations

Main, East Helena
227-2241

Cremation Specialists

