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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

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LEE NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT UM CAMPAIGN

MISSOULA--

Lee Enterprises has contributed \$225,000, primarily through its four Montana newspapers, to the \$6-million University of Montana Campaign.

The newspapers that provided most of the gift are the Billings Gazette, the Missoulian, the Montana Standard in Butte, and the Independent Record in Helena.

Part of the gift was a personal contribution from Lee President and Board Chairman Lloyd Schermer and his wife Betty. Schermer is a trustee of the University of Montana Foundation and a frequent visitor to Montana.

The entire gift, which was made before the University's campaign was formally announced, will be used to endow the University of Montana Foundation, the private, non-profit organization that raises money for the University. Income from the endowment will fund annual operation of the Foundation.

"We are extremely pleased that all four Lee papers participated in making this gift," said UM President Neil S. Bucklew. "The fact that this was a statewide commitment to the University of Montana means a great deal to us.

"We also feel the gift reflects confidence in the continued excellence of this university over the long term," said Bucklew. "By helping to endow the Foundation, these Montana newspapers have invested in our ability to maintain a healthy, private support system."

The University of Montana Campaign is a project of the UM Foundation and is part of a three-year effort by the University to raise \$10.6 million. The Campaign is designed to meet long-term needs, which would not normally be funded by the state, in order to extend the University's tradition of excellence through the end of the century.