

Government

AM 10 Sept 2013

Baucus/Job Summit

JY

The deadline to register for Senator Max Baucus' upcoming Jobs Summit is Friday night.

Jackie Yamanaka talked with Baucus about what attendees can expect when they attend the event in Butte early next week.

(1:56)

HOST OUT: For more information and links about next week's Job Summit, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news

PM 10 Sept 2013

Baucus/Job Summit

JY

Friday night is the deadline to register for Senator Max Baucus' upcoming Jobs Summit in Butte.

The Democrat has said this is not a trade show. Rather he says attendees should come prepared to show off their innate Montana can-do spirit, strong work ethic, and to think big.

He says summit participants will have a chance to listen to and interact with the keynote speakers. The list is broad and includes, the heads of major corporations, including Ford Motor Company, Google, Boeing, Delta Airlines, Space X and Facebook.

BAUCUS: come with ideas, thoughts and questions that they can ask 1:1 with people. Not just listen to people giving a speech. Some of the big folks giving a speech, and get inspired by that. (:10)

Baucus adds there will also be a number of break out sessions where participants can learn more about writing a business plan, securing financing, or more various business opportunities from a variety of experts.

He says remember, these global executives are also coming to learn more about Montana, its businesses, and opportunities.

Montana's senior Senator says to facilitate that, he's set a few ground rules for all attendees.

BAUCUS: Nothing's off the table, there's no such thing as a bad idea, suspend judgement, if you hear something you might not agree with follow through with an idea, if you have a complaint come with solutions or at least the beginning of a solution as well, and no politics. No politics what so ever. It's very important to me. I say it to the speakers if anyone gets political I'm going to cut them off at the knees. This is not a political event. This is a MT event." (:30)

This is Baucus' 6th Economic Development Summit. His current U-S Senate term concludes at the end of next year. Earlier this year the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee announced he will retire and return to Montana rather than seek re-election.

You can find links about the Jobs Summit at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news)

26 Sept 2013 Tester – federal gov't shutdown JY

Senator Jon Tester says Congress needs to do its job. The Democrat says that includes keeping the government running.

The comments come as some Republican lawmakers are threatening to shut down the federal government in an effort to de-fund Obamacare.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:33)

Environment

3 July 2013 Daines/Obama Climate Initiative JY

Montana's lone congressman says natural resource development is the economic engine that will help grow the economy and broaden the tax base. Republican Steve Daines also says this sector will lead to energy security for the U-S.

Daines says, however, President Obama's Climate Initiative threatens that. And as Jackie Yamanaka reports, Daines is skeptical about the human role in climate change.

(2:32)

18 July 2013 Tester/Keystone & Climate JY

Senator Jon Tester supports moving away from traditional fossil fuels, but he says the technology doesn't exist yet to completely replace coal, oil, and natural gas.

Tester also remains a supporter of the Keystone X-L pipeline, saying it's an issue of safety.

Earlier this month, a runaway train carrying crude caused a deadly explosion in Quebec. Because of the lack of pipeline capacity, producers are relying on rail and semi-trucks to move crude.

Tester says in the discussion on the impact of Canada's tar sands oil development on the environment and climate change often what's neglected is the issue of safety.

(2:07)

TESTER: The best way to ship oil – the best way to ship fluids, actually – if you're doing it in any kind of volume at all is through a pipeline. And that's exactly the intent is to take the pressure off the rails and take the pressure off the highways. The highways, especially. It becomes a real problem when you get the # of trucks on the highway that are that can be taken off the road and you can push this stuff off the pipeline. Much better for public safety and much better frankly for the environment. (:30)

He says opponents to the Keystone X-L pipeline project bring up good points, but he maintains when all of the arguments are laid out, pipelines remain safer than the rail or highway alternative.

Rail and semi shipments of crude have increased dramatically in Montana and North Dakota because of the Bakken oil boom. Tester says Keystone should at the minimum start at Bakken.

The farmer from Big Sandy says he agrees with environmentalists that climate change is real. He says he thinks about that while plowing his fields, noting the irony of how much diesel fuel he needs to fill his tractor.

TESTER: And I always think to myself, gosh I wish we could do this different but this is the only option we have. Look coal, oil, and natural gas is going to be around for a long time. We don't have the technology to replace them yet. Solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, all that stuff can help but we're certainly not to the point where we can be even able to begin to come close to replacing coal which turns on many of our lights in MT. hydro does a fair amount of it; and diesel fuel and gasoline which are our transportation fuels. (:31)

So he advocates using technology to burn coal, diesel, and gasoline as clean as possible. At the same time he's a proponent of investing in research in alternatives, but finding those alternatives will take time.

TESTER: You can't just shut the spigot off and expect the economy to continue to run. If I could not put fuel in my tractor I would have to quit farming and that's a fact of life. And what's the upshot of that? There would be less food to eat. (:11)

Tester's comments came during his monthly telephone conference call with reporters.

16 Aug 2013 Coal Haul Truck simulator/MT Fair JY

The region's energy industry was on display yesterday at Montana Fair.

One of the highlights gave attendees a chance to slide behind the controls of a simulated coal haul truck.

Jackie Yamanaka filed this audio postcard on the Cloud Peak Energy Equipment simulator.

(4:49)

HOST OUT: *YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of Transportation. For more information about Transportation Nation and to see pictures and hear an extended interview with Cloud Peak's Todd O'Hair about the future of the coal industry at our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.*

19 Aug 2013 BNSF additional investments JY

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway is increasing the amount of money it's already spending in Montana to maintain and expand its rail network.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, the projects are targeting BNSF's northern line.

(1:35)

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Health

8 July 2013 ACA – Marketplace launch JY

The countdown is underway for the October first launch of the marketplace where uninsured Americans can shop for health insurance.

But health officials are concerned the residents of Montana and Wyoming know little about the health insurance marketplace – or exchange.

That's why one federal official is in Montana right now to talk about the mandate that people have health insurance and how to get coverage.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:46)

HOST OUT: For more information and links about the federal Affordable Care Act, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

18 July 2013 Drug Trafficking/Bakken JY

Drugs and drug trafficking in the Bakken oil patch is the subject of two meetings tomorrow. One will be held in Glendive; the other in Bismark.

The meetings will feature the director of the National Drug Control Policy, the U-S Attorneys from both Montana and Wyoming, and other officials.

Senator Jon Tester organized the trips with his Senate colleague – Senator Heidi Heitkamp.

Tester says this issue is bigger than just drugs, however. He says it involves two states, the U-S-Canada border, several Indian Reservations, and numerous other jurisdictions.

TESTER: who are trying to fight crime and fight drugs and it would be nice to get those folks together to get their perspective to find out how prevalent this is and if there are things that we can do at the federal level to allow folks to work together better and potentially to cut some of the red tape of the programs back here and just allow everyone to do their job better and increase communication between everybody. (:27)

The most recent National Survey of Drug Use and Health says Montana is one of the top 10 states for rates in several drug categories.

In North Dakota, earlier this month federal officials say an indictment was handed down involving more than 20 people who were charged with running a major drug ring in North Dakota.

The Glendive meeting begins at 1:30 tomorrow afternoon at the Glendive Medical Center.

The meeting in Bismarck begins later that evening at Bismarck State College.

1 August 2013 MT Obamacare website JY

Montanans now have a state-specific resource to get the answer to questions about the federal Affordable Care Act or Obamacare.

The federal government has renewed its effort to get the word out because on October first open enrollment begins in the Health Insurance Marketplace.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports state insurance officials found residents want Montana specific information.

(1:40)

HOST OUT: For additional links from this story, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

29 Aug 2013 Tester/St. V's & Healthcare JY

Montana health care providers face Medicare cuts of just over 571-million dollars. And officials from one Billings hospital told U-S Senator Jon Tester another nearly 230-million dollars in cuts are under consideration.

Tester toured the Saint Vincent Frontier Cancer Center yesterday afternoon. As Jackie Yamanaka reports, the Democrat also learned how federal budget cuts are affecting providers.

(2:55)

Wildlife

21 Aug 2013 Wildlife Salvage law/pub comments JY

The 2013 Montana Legislature passed a law that allows people to salvage an antelope, deer, elk or moose that was killed in a collision with a motor vehicle.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission was charged with writing an administrative rule for House Bill 247.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:10)

HOST OUT: To read House Bill 247, the proposed administrative rule, or for the link to submit a public comment, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

4 Sept 2013 Congr Field Hearing/Sage Grouse JY

The potential listing of the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act could be a new “war on the west.” That’s according to some members of the U-S House Natural Resources Committee.

The committee held field hearings today (yesterday) in both Casper and Billings on the issue. Jackie Yamanaka has more from the hearing held at MSU-Billings.

(3:18)

Rural/Native Issues

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1 August 2013 Pictograph Caves/field school JY

Researchers are using modern technology to get a better understanding of Montana's largest archeological excavation site.

In the 1930's, a team from the Works Progress Administration – or WPA – excavated tens of thousands of artifacts from what's now Pictograph Cave State Park. However, that team didn't provide detailed documentation of the rock art on the cave walls.

Jackie Yamanaka has this audio postcard of the archeological field school taking place this week near Billings to better understand the WPA team's work. They're also documenting this landscape.

(5:34)

6 August 2013 Tester cabin owners JY

Senator Jon Tester says families who own cabins on Forest Service land should have user fees that are more affordable and predictable... even as land values are skyrocketing.

The Democrat met with nearly a dozen cabin owners in Billings today (yesterday) to talk about his latest efforts to address the issue. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:58)

HOST OUT: During the meeting, The National Forest Homeowners representative Jane Van Dyk presented Tester with the organizations first National Leadership award.

7 Aug 2013 Indian EconDev/Bullock & Tester JY

The Native American Development Corporation has awarded more than one-million dollars to businesses through its revolving loan fund.

Executive Director Leonard Smith is working to continue those investments. He says sequestration is making it harder to sustain economic development needs in Indian country. He says that's why partnerships are crucial.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, Governor Steve Bullock says count the state of Montana as one of those partners.

(1:57)

HOST OUT: the Native American Development Corporation's conference continues in Billings through tomorrow (today).

Agriculture

Business/Growth

11 July 2013 FedEx Ground/prototype JY

FedEx Ground is putting in a prototype package distribution center in Billings. This new site near the Shiloh Interchange in West Billings will replace an existing facility east of the city.

FedEx Ground officials kicked off construction of its new package distribution center today (yesterday).

As Jackie Yamanaka reports company officials say they have been working with the city of Billings and neighboring businesses to mitigate the semi-truck traffic that comes with this facility.

(3:29)

HOST OUT: YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of transportation. For more information about Transportation Nation, go to our website, ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

Education

22 Aug 2013 MSUB-Welcome Back JY

Fall enrollment at MSU-Billings is projected to be down from the record level reached three years ago.

Chancellor Rolf Groseth attributes most of that to the strong local economy. He says many would-be students are choosing instead to work. Billings and portions of Eastern Montana are currently experiencing a boom in the energy sector.

As a result, the campus is focusing on recruiting new students and retaining current students. As Jackie Yamanaka reports, campus officials report those efforts have had early success.

(3:10)

5 Sept 2013 Bullock/Career Center JY

Governor Steve Bullock told some students in Billings, there was a time when he didn't take school that seriously. He says his mind was changed by teachers and others. Bullock is visiting schools across Montana, encouraging students to stick it out.

Jackie Yamanaka joined the governor yesterday at the Billings Career Center and filed this audio postcard.

(3:22 – let audio fade to time)

11 Sept 2013 Veteran's Lounge/City College JY

City College is the latest campus to open a veteran's lounge.

Colleges have long had services – such as to help with financial assistance - for veterans. What was lacking was a designated place with support services where students – who are veterans - could go to navigate higher education, get peer-mentoring and for camaraderie.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(4:38)

HOST OUT: For more information about veterans services at MSU-Billings or to see a photo from the ribbon cutting, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

16 Sept 2013 Delta – Transpo JY

A standing room only crowd exceeding three-thousand people are meeting at Montana Tech today and tomorrow (Monday and today) for the 6th Annual Economic Development Summit.

The event is organized by Montana Senator Max Baucus.

The summit features a who's who of business executives. Today's (Yesterday's) slate included: the CEO of Space X and Tesla motors, the chief operating officer of FaceBook, and the CEO of Delta Airlines.

Jackie Yamanaka has more about how a state's healthy economic activity helped Delta Airline officials decide to expand air service in Montana.

(3:17)

18 Sept 2013 Grant – 2 year education JY

Montana received a 25-million dollar federal grant to train and prepare workers for jobs in manufacturing and the energy sector.

The money from the U-S Department of Labor will be divided among the state's two-year colleges, community colleges, and select tribal colleges.

Today's (Yesterday's) announcement came on the heels of the Montana Economic Development Summit at Montana Tech. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:50)

HOST OUT: To see a list of the 2-year colleges receiving the award and the business partners, go to our website, ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

