

Government

6 November 2013 Daines announce Senate JY

Congressman Steve Daines was widely expected to enter the race for the open U-S Senate seat in next year's election.

The Republican made it official with a campaign announcement today (yesterday) in Bozeman.

Jackie Yamanaka spoke to Daines and has this report.

(3:38)

27 Nov 2013 Bohlinger/Senate Campaign JY

Former Lieutenant Governor and state legislator John Bohlinger says he regrets equating the TEA party with the Taliban.

Bohlinger made the comment in reference to October's partial federal government shutdown.

He says from this point on, his U-S Senate campaign will focus on the issues. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:12)

Bullock – Year in Review 26 Dec 2013 JY

Democrat Steve Bullock says looking back on his first Legislative session as Governor, he didn't get everything he wanted, but he thinks there were great successes for Montanans.

Jackie Yamanaka sat down recently with Bullock at the state Capitol to talk about his first year as Montana's Governor.

(4:37)

HOST OUT: You can hear the entire unedited interview with Governor Steve Bullock at our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news

Environment

7 October 2013 RLM-Fire mitigation work JY

Employees of Red Lodge Mountain are burning the numerous piles of downed trees that were cut over the summer.

The resort received a grant to thin dense stands of trees among its ski runs. Work is also taking place to remove trees around several communication towers also on the mountain.

The purpose of this 3-year project is multi-faceted. As Jackie Yamanaka reports, it's to mitigate against wildland fires... and improve forest health and recreation opportunities at Red Lodge Mountain.

(6:44)

HOST OUT: to see pictures and for more information about the fuel mitigation work taking place at Red Lodge Mountain, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

24 October 2013 ECA – new Blgs office JY

A Denver-based oil and natural gas company is expanding its Montana operations.

Energy Corporation of America held a ribbon cutting ceremony today in Billings for its newest Rockies District office.

ECA has wells in Carbon and Stillwater Counties. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:01)

7 November 2013 Inner Belt Loop JY

Heavy equipment began moving dirt this week to create a new road connecting the Billings Heights with the west end.

The Inner Belt Loop project is taking place in two phases.

A groundbreaking was held this afternoon (yesterday) to kick-off the project that begins at Wicks Lane in the Heights. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:59)

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

Social Issues in Montana

20 Nov 2013 YC Jail overcrowding – Commission JY

Yellowstone County Commissioners yesterday unanimously directed staff to put together a proposal to deal with overcrowding at the Yellowstone County Detention Facility.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, the sheriff has tentatively proposed a new unit to house female inmates.

(2:38)

25 Nov 2013 proclamation - Domestic Violence JY

Yellowstone County is the only one in Montana to have approved a proclamation against gender violence, according to the Zonta Club of Billings.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence begins today (Monday).

It's a project of the Zonta Club, a service organization that focuses on the advancement of women.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:15)

HOST OUT: The Zonta Club of Glendive has asked Dawson County Commissioners to approve a similar proclamation. A Zonta spokeswoman says the commission may discuss this item at its next scheduled meeting on December third.

For more information about the Billings event, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

26 Nov 2013 Bozeman-Homelessness JY

On average, there are an estimated 100 homeless people in Bozeman on any given day. That's according to Sara Savage, the housing program director for the Human Resource Development Council in Bozeman.

Her department helps people find more permanent housing. HRDC also operates a seasonal shelter during Bozeman's coldest months.

Savage spoke about the Warming Center during last week's Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week in Billings. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:32)

HOST OUT: For more information about the Warming Center in Bozeman, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

29 Nov 2013 Panhandling alternative

JY

Pan-handling is not new in Billings. On any given day, individuals can be found on various street corners around town with a cardboard sign asking for money.

During the holidays, sometimes people feel generous and hand over money to panhandlers. But there is an alternative, says the executive director for the Downtown Billings Alliance.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:09)

HOST OUT: For more information and links to resources, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

The “Spare Change for Real Change” program will soon be issuing another round of grants. The deadline for applications is December 11th.

Economy

AM 17 October 2013 Scheel’s Big Sky Econ Devel JY

An economic development official says Billings’ position as a regional trade corridor is strengthened by the opening next year of a Scheels “super store.”

Scheels is currently constructing its new 220-thousand square foot sporting goods super store in Shiloh Crossing on Billings’ west end.

CEO and Board Chairman Steve Scheel predicts this new store will draw shoppers from around the region – this includes southern Saskatchewan and Alberta in Canada, as well as western North Dakota, northern Wyoming, and from across Montana.

SCHEEL: “People from Bozeman...inside one store.” (:30)

The Fargo-based company has 2-dozen stores in 10 states. Besides Billings, Scheels also has a store in Great Falls.

Scheels has been in Billings since 1955. Steve Scheel says the retailer builds one store a year. When it came to plans for Montana, he didn’t consider building this super store anywhere other than Billings.

He says Billings is already a regional center for trade, education, and oil and gas. Scheel says that’s why Billings is where the retailer wants to be.

SCHEEL: “MT State and U-M...what Blgs offers across the board.” (:07)

Scheel was the keynote speaker at the Big Sky Economic Development annual meeting at the Northern Hotel.

He says about 300 people will work at the new store and the average, full-time employee will earn nearly 54-thousand dollars a year.

Steve Arveschoug (Ar-v-skow) is executive director of the Big Sky Economic Development Authority. He says this super store is just one example of how well the economy is faring in Yellowstone County.

ARVESCHOUG: "I think start with the framework...trade center (:30)

The Scheels Superstore is scheduled to open next September.

PM - 7 October 2013 Scheel's Big Sky Econ Devel JY

An economic development official says Billings' position as a regional trade corridor is strengthened by the opening next year of a Scheels "super store."

Construction is underway on Scheels' 220-thousand- square foot sporting goods store. Jackie Yamanaka has more on the economic impact of this new retail development.

(2:38)

23 October 2013 BNSF – Econ Develop Office JY

Montana's export economy is growing and there's the need for additional transportation of goods. That's why Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway opened a new economic development office in Billings.

A ribbon cutting for that new office was held yesterday.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, BNSF officials say they opened this office to be closer to its core customers.

(4:00)

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.

Wildlife

Rural Living

24 Oct 2013 Baucus – Farm Bill JY

Senator Max Baucus is confident Congress will pass a new farm bill by the end of the year.

The Democrat is one member of the conference committee appointed to find agreement between the House and Senate versions.

Baucus has been meeting with producers across Montana this week to get input before the conferees sit down in formal negotiations in the next week or so. Jackie Yamanaka joined Baucus for the stop in Billings.

(2:04)

Education

10 October 2013 SD 2 Bond/newsmakers JY

Public schools in Billings are overcrowded. That's causing school officials to move children away from attending their neighborhood schools. But even that isn't a solution. School officials also converted closets, school libraries, and other spaces into classrooms.

They have a solution that will be placed before voters in Billings School District 2. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:29)

HOST OUT: for links about the Billings School District 2 bond issue, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

AM -16 October 2013 Affording Bond-SD2 JY

Beginning later this week, voters will be able to pick their choices for this year's municipal election in Billings. Also on the ballot a bond issue for School District 2.

Education supporters say they know the just over 122-million dollar bond request may sound daunting for homeowners, but they say this investment in public education is an important economic development tool.

DUNCAN: Everytime Heidi and I...in Billings, Montana.” (:12)

DUNCAN: ...how are your schools

Jim Duncan is president of Billings Clinic Foundation. His wife – Dr. Heidi Duncan – is a family practice physician at Billings Clinic.

Jim Duncan says even Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine noticed Billings support for education in its issue last month. It listed Billings on its top 10 list of places to live, pointing to passage of a public school mill levy last spring.

What's on the ballot now is a bond issue to build 2 new middle schools, refurbish 2 historic elementary schools, and pay for deferred maintenance on nearly two-dozen other elementary schools.

Jim Duncan says he realizes about 20-percent of Billings homes have children, but he says public schools benefit the entire community.

DUNCAN: You pay it forward...next generation. (:04)

The Duncans are co-chairs of a coalition of public education supporters called “Yes for Kids.”

DUNCAN: ...ignore as a community (:34)

The Yellowstone County Elections office is scheduled to mail ballots to Billings voters Friday. The deadline to return ballots is Tuesday – November fifth.

PM -16 October 2013 Affording Bond-SD2 JY

At the end of this week, voters will be able to pick their choices for this year's municipal election in Billings. Also on the ballot a bond issue for School District 2.

Education supporters say they know the just over 122-million dollar bond request may sound daunting for homeowners. But as Jackie Yamanaka reports, public school backers say this is an investment in the economic well-being of Billings.

(3:17)

HOST OUT: For a link to the Kiplinger ranking, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

11 Nov 2013 MSUB-Veteran's Lounge JY

A Veterans Lounge is opening on the MSU-Billings campus. A ribbon cutting is scheduled tomorrow and the public is invited to attend.

This is the second such service on the campus to ease the transition of military veterans from deployment back into the classroom.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:15)

HOST OUT: The ribbon cutting for the new Veterans Lounge is at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in the Student Union Building near the Yellowstone Room.

For more information, go to our website: ypradio-dot-org-slash-news.

