

# Government

**29 April 2014      YC Commission/Deputies              JY**

The Yellowstone County Commission voted to approve a new contract with its sheriff's deputies.

Today's (Yesterday's) action ends several months of negotiations between the county and the union representing the deputies. The disagreement between both sides even had the deputies voting to authorize a possible strike.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:01)

**3 June 2014                      Primary Eln DAY                      JY**

Montana voters will have the final say today on several contested primary election races.

This includes for the top tier races for the U-S Senate, U-S House, as well legislative and local contests.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:51)

**HOST OUT:** For a link to the state's election page or for voter resources – go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**4 June 2014      Primary ELN/Top races                      JY**

In Montana's U-S Senate race, Democrat John Walsh and Republican Steve Daines cruised to easy victories in their respective primary contests.

Both grabbed early, substantial leads after the polls closed at 8 o'clock last night.

It was a much longer night for the Republican U-S House candidates.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(6:41)

**HOST OUT:** You can find a link to the statewide election returns at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

The results are preliminary until Montana election officials canvass the votes.

**5 June 2014      Poli Sci – Post Primary analysis                      JY**

Montana political scientists say - in general - establishment Republicans were able to fend off primary challenges from more conservative candidates. But they're not ready to say the Tea Party influence on Montana politics is completely squashed.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(4:00)

**HOST OUT:** Secretary of State Linda McCulloch says according to preliminary figures, 33-percent of registered voters cast ballots in Tuesday's primary.

She says 68-percent of those ballots were cast absentee. That's up from previous election years.

**5 June 2014    Tester/VA Listening sessions                    JY**

Senator Jon Tester says his first listening session to hear about veteran's experiences with the federal V-A health care system will be held next week.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, the Democrat made the announcement during his monthly telephone conference call with reporters.

(1:15)

## Environment

**1 April 2014    Keystone XL – MT Energy Forum    JY**

A retired rear admiral with the U-S Navy says energy independence and the increase in domestic production gives the United States more options and flexibility.

Donald Loren told a crowd in Billings today (yesterday) the proposed Keystone X-L pipeline also plays a role in energy security. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(4:15)

**3 April 2014    Keystone X-L/TransCanada                    JY**

One of the controversial projects being discussed at an energy industry conference and trade show in Billings is the proposed Keystone X-L pipeline.

The project is to transport crude from Canada's tar sand fields and the Bakken to refineries along the gulf coast.

The topic kicked off Montana Energy 2014 on Tuesday... and yesterday Jackie Yamanaka sat down with a TransCanada official to talk about the proposed pipeline.

(2:28)

**2 April 2014    Energy opportunities/challenges                    JY**

Governor Steve Bullock says Montana is facing significant energy opportunities. He says there are consequences of that boom.

Bullock was one of the keynote speakers today at an energy industry-sponsored conference and trade show in Billings.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, Bullock and author and journalist Robert Bryce both advocate a mix of fossil and renewable energy development.

(4:39)

### **AM 3 April 2014    Energy opportunities/challenges    JY**

Governor Steve Bullock says Montana is facing significant energy opportunities and with those opportunities comes consequences.

Bullock was one of the keynote speakers yesterday at an energy industry-sponsored conference and trade show in Billings.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:26)

### **3 April 2014    Crow Coal/Cloud Peak Energy    JY**

The Crow Tribe is working to expand coal mining and renewable energy projects on its southeastern Montana reservation. This includes proposed a coal-to-liquid plant that also captures carbon.

Tribal Chairman Darrin Old Coyote was one of the keynote speakers today (yesterday) at an energy industry sponsored conference and trade show in Billings. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:45)

### **26 June 2014    Cheney/Energy Expo    JY**

Former Vice President and Wyoming Congressman Dick Cheney continued his criticism of the Obama administration on energy and foreign policy during his speech last night at MetraPark in Billings.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:20)

## **Health**

### **14 May 2014    Blgs Treatment Court recognition    JY**

The Billings Adult Misdemeanor Treatment Court was recognized as one of the top such courts in the country.

It was also named - again - as one of the 10 courts designated by a national treatment court organization as a mentor court.

Jackie Yamanaka has more on what this designation means for this program.

(3:24)

**HOST OUT:** For more information and links about treatment courts and the mentor courts go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**16 May 2014      NAMI-Blgs\_Veterans Suicide      JY**

The Billings chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness has scheduled a candle-lighting ceremony at Veterans Park Saturday evening. The event is to call attention to the number of veterans who commit suicide.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:44)

**HOST OUT:** The NAMI Billings candlelight vigil is scheduled Saturday – May 17<sup>th</sup> – at Veterans Park. It begins at 8:30 in the evening. For a link for more information, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**2 June 2014      Tester/VA Legislation      JY**

Senator Jon Tester wants to reassure veterans their health care concerns remain a top priority in light of the recent resignation of the Veterans Administration secretary and the director of the VA in Montana.

Tester is a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

The Democrat held a press conference yesterday to announce new legislation he's working on to address the issue.

Jackie Yamanaka was among the reporters who joined that press conference by telephone and has this report.

(2:50)

## Education

**7 April 2014      STEM/Apollo Astronaut      JY**

Apollo 7 astronaut Walter Cunningham says no government program inspired more technological innovation than the U-S Space program.

He says the race to place a man on the moon united the country and increased spending on research and education, especially math and science.

**CUNNINGHAM: we probably wouldn't have gone to the moon – well we might have eventually – cause maybe the Russians would have eventually done it. they liked being out in front. And they were out in front. I mean they started out ahead of us. We were way behind. And because of American ingenuity, American capability we were able to overcome that and we were willing to do that. We were willing to accept the challenge to do the impossible –land a man on the moon. We are no longer willing to tackle these long term things. (:40)**

Cunningham told students in Rocky Mountain College's aviation program part of that is an unwillingness by politician's to spend the money.

Yet politicians and education officials are calling for more American students to take classes in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics ... often called STEM education.

Cunningham thinks a better way to inspire students is another ambitious and government funded space mission... this time to mars.

**CUNNINGHAM: I'm pretty well convinced that students today they're inspired by the wrong things. Almost anything that's going on today. They're not inspired by reaching out and trying to do the impossible. Everybody has got to join. It's a risk of our society. Nobody wants to take risks on anything. They want a sure thing. And they want to be rewarded or paid regardless of who's doing the work and who's not. (:38)**

Cunningham piloted the Apollo 7 mission in 1968. It was the first three-person manned-American space mission. He also was chief of the Skylab branch that oversaw the first American space station.

Cunningham says while he's not optimistic for society in general, he is pleased with Rocky's aviation students.

He urges them to pursue their studies in aviation, and to also broaden their education. He says after he left the military as a fighter jet pilot, he was pursuing a doctorate in physics. It was interrupted when he was hired by NASA.

**CUNNINGHAM: I was never what you would call a practicing physicist. But I use physics all the time. Everything I do every day I incorporate that in it (:13)**

That comment is applauded by Rocky's Director of Aviation and aviation professor Dan Hargrove.

**HARGROVE: I loved his closing remarks saying we have a fine program here and he really does understand us and he does values as we do the broad education. It's not just about can you fly an airplane. It is about what RMC is, a broadbased education, it's about leadership, it's about integrity, it's about working on teams. That's what we've been doing at Rocky since the 1800's and now yo mix that in with aviation. He recognizes what we do every day and that's blending the well rounded education with the technical skills and that's leaders for our aviation future. (:33)**

Hargrove says he hopes Cunningham's visit inspires his students. He says it also gives his students a chance to ask questions of an accomplished pilot who is also an astronaut.

**PM - 7 April 2014    STEM/Apollo Astronaut    JY**

Apollo 7 astronaut Walter Cunningham says if politicians and educators want to inspire more students to take science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses...they should invest in space exploration.

Cunningham told an aviation class at Rocky Mountain College no government program inspired more technological innovation than the U-S Space program.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:40)

**HOST OUT:** You can see photos of Walter Cunningham at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**AM 8 April 2014    Yellowstone Hall/MSUB    JY**

MSU-Billings officials and students yesterday officially unveiled the architectural renderings of the new science building on campus. The event also formally kicked off the fundraising effort to help pay for the project.

The state-of-the art facility is to be called Yellowstone Hall. The renovation and new construction will update the Science Building, constructed in 1947.

While there have been a couple of upgrades over the years, there's still too little space.

Elizabeth Mullins is a junior and a biology major. She's also the campus' first Goldwater Scholar. The prestigious scholarship is for students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics – also known as STEM.

Mullins says research is rewarding but challenging in the current building.

**MULLINS: For example, some of our lab spaces are becoming old. Our tables are falling apart. We're having problems with glassware facilities. You can hear the pipes rattling and you kind of wonder about how well they're really holding up. In fact last spring our organic chemistry room flooded and it damaged a lot of equipment and as a student it's a little challenging. I was actually in organic chem at that time and so some of the students had to redo their experiments. (:36)**

For several legislative sessions, higher education officials have approached the legislature for funding.

It was finally approved during the 2013 Legislative session. Lawmakers passed House Bill 5. The action provides two-thirds of the project's cost – a total of 15-million dollars.

Chuck Wendt is president and CEO of the MSUB Foundation.

**WENDT: our job now....and relatively quickly (:17)**

Wendt says the fundraising effort is not about the building, rather its about the students who are pursuing degrees math, science and health care.

**WENDT: we don't call them donors...for years (:39)**

Wendt took over as head of the Foundation at the end of February from Marilyn Miller.

Miller, Wendt and members of the foundation had been quietly pursuing funds before yesterday's official launch. A progress report issued at the end of last year said several hundred thousand dollars have been pledged.

This project will renovate the existing, 67-year old building. It will also add 36-thouand feet of new construction.

When completed, the Yellowstone Hall project will house the Departments of Biology and Physical Sciences and the College of Allied Health Professionals.

The architects say once all of the funding is in place ground could be broken for the project about six-months later.

**8 April 2014    Yellowstone Hall/MSUB    JY**

MSU-Billings officials yesterday unveiled the architectural renderings of the new science building on campus.

The state-of-the art facility – to be called Yellowstone Hall - will replace the current Science Building that was constructed in 1947.

(3:13)

**HOST OUT:** to see photos and for the link to find out more information about the Yellowstone Hall project, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**12 May 2014    RMC – drone program    JY**

Rocky Mountain College's aviation program is one of a handful from around the nation that's teaching its students about the legal and technological advances of unmanned aerial systems...or drones. That's according to aviation attorney and the program's professor Scott Wilson.

Wilson and two of his students talked about the program... and as Jackie Yamanaka reports they flew two of their drones to demonstrate its capabilities.

(3:30)

**HOST OUT:** You can see picture's of some of the drones Rocky Mountain College students are flying as part of the aviation program at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news)

**13 May 2014    School zone traffic violations    JY**

Motorists caught speeding or using a cell phone while in a school zone face higher, base fines in Billings Municipal Court.

Jackie Yamanaka explains why.

(3:00)

**HOST OUT:** *YPR is part of a multi-public radio station reporting project on the issue of transportation. For links for this story or about Transportation Nation, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).*

**16 May 2014 MSUB Chancellor-to-be/Mark Nook JY**

The individual chosen to become the next chancellor of Montana State University Billings says he will attend next week's Board of Regents meeting in Havre.

His appointment is on the agenda next Friday at the regent's regularly scheduled meeting.

Jackie Yamanaka spoke with Nook about his leadership style...and has this report.

(3:19)

**HOST OUT:** You can read more information about Mark Nook's background at our website, [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

## Wildlife

## Native American Issues

**27 May 2014 MT & WY Tribal leaders/IHS JY**

Tribal leaders from across Montana and Wyoming say the federal program responsible for providing their health care continues to provide inadequate services on reservations.

The Indian Health Service provides medical care to just over 2-million American Indian and Alaska Natives across the country.

The recent resignation of the IHS Director for Montana and Wyoming highlighted the on-going problems tribes have had with the agency.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports... a standing room crowd of about 150 people packed the community room at the Billings Public Library to hear tribal officials air their grievances and offer a few solutions at today's (yesterday's) U-S Senate field hearing.

(4:06)



# Rural Issues

## 29 April 2014 Lockwood business/zoning request JY

Yellowstone County is accepting written public comment on a zoning request change in Lockwood to accommodate a growing, existing business.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:39)

## 20 May 2014 BT Pass plowing JY

Weather permitting, crews are on track to have the scenic Beartooth Pass south of Red Lodge open for the Memorial Day weekend. Jackie Yamanaka joined Montana Department of Transportation crews as they worked to clear the last quarter mile of the pass near the Montana-Wyoming border and filed this audio postcard.

(4:05)

**HOST OUT:** *YPR is part of a multi-public radio reporting project on the issue of transportation. For more information about Transportation Nation and to see pictures of the crews working to re-open Beartooth Pass for the season, go to our website, [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).*

## 20 May 2014 US Veterans Cemetery/MT Site JY

The federal government will officially designate the Yellowstone County Veterans Cemetery – located north of Laurel – as a national cemetery with a ceremony Memorial Day weekend.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, Yellowstone County Commissioners gave final approval to the transfer of the property and the water rights to the federal government today (yesterday).

(2:04)

## 27 May 2014 Yellowstone National Cemetery dedication JY

A small veterans cemetery located north of Laurel is the first to be dedicated as a rural national veterans burial ground under federal legislation was approved in 2012.

Montana's Congressional delegation, the V-A's Undersecretary for Memorial Affairs, and others welcomed this newest veterans cemetery into the national system during a Memorial Day celebration.

Jackie Yamanaka filed this audio postcard from yesterday's dedication.

(4:21)

**HOST OUT:** You can see picture's from the dedication ceremony at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

