

# Government

## **6 Aug 2014 Tax Protests/Yellowstone County JY**

Over the past year, Montana Department of Revenue and Yellowstone County officials have worked to resolve property tax disputes with some of the county's largest companies.

Scott Turner is the county's director of finance. He told Yellowstone County Commissioners the county recently resolved property tax protests with Charter-Bresnan, Verizon-All-Tell, and for two years for Conoco-Phillips.

**TURNER: at the high pt we had, which the high point was November, we had \$41 m in taxes being held. All these of the major tax protests have brought these tax protests unresolved currently down to just \$6.4 million. So we resolved 84% of the tax protests from where we were a year ago." (:29)**

This includes the resolved tax protests earlier this year with Puget Sound Energy and the CHS refinery in Laurel.

Turner says the remaining unresolved tax protests are with Conoco-Phillips for 2013, ATT Mobility, and others for a total of just over 6-million dollars.

Commissioner Bill Kennedy says this the latest resolution of protested property taxes will mean a one-time injection of tax revenue for public schools, services for public health and safety, and other services.

County officials will hold a budget follow-up meeting next Wednesday to discuss the injection of additional tax dollars.

## **8 July 2014 Walsh pulls out JY**

Senator John Walsh ended his campaign for the seat he was appointed to earlier this year.

Walsh said in a written statement the action as taken so he could focus his responsibilities as U-S Senator.

Jackie Yamanaka has more on the process Democrats will use to select the Democratic replacement for the open U-S Senate seat.

(3:07)

## **18 July 2014 Demo Nomination JY**

Democrats from across the state gathered Saturday and selected Amanda Curtis as their candidate for the U-S Senate. The political newcomer and classroom teacher replaces Senator John Walsh on November's general election ballot.

Walsh was appointed to the seat in February by the governor. He recently ended his campaign to keep that seat amid a plagiarism controversy surrounding his 2007 research paper at the U-S Army War College.

Jackie Yamanaka has more from the Democrat's special Nominating Convention in Helena on the challenges Curtis will face against a Republican opponent who is better known and a well-funded Congressman.

(3:59)

**26 Aug 2014                      Daines – US Chamber                      JY**

The U-S and Montana Chambers of Commerce threw their support behind Republican Congressman Steve Daines in his bid for Montana's open U-S Senate seat.

The announcement came during a stop at Montana Peterbilt in Lockwood yesterday at the invitation of owner Kevin Gustainis.

Daines welcomed the endorsement.

**DAINES: (:07)...sound of jobs.**

The Montana Chamber had endorsed Daines last June. Yesterday, the U-S Chamber's National Political Director Rob Engstrom endorsed the Republican Congressman.

When Engstrom was asked if the Chamber had given serious consideration to Democratic candidate Amanda Curtis, he said every candidate gets a fair shot at a possible endorsement.

**ENGSTROM: (:28)....policy decisions that are hostile to our membership and not hostile.”**

Engstrom says the endorsement position was based on a fundamental distinction on policy.

Curtis has received endorsements from the teachers union – MEA-MFT – and the Montana State Building and Construction Trades Council.

Curtis was selected August 16<sup>th</sup> during a special Democratic Nomination Commission to replace appointed U-S Senator John Walsh on the November general election ballot. Walsh ended his candidacy amid a plagiarism scandal.

**9 Sept 2014    LR 126 – voter registration on ELN day    JY**

A-A-R-P has joined those opposing a Montana ballot measure that would end the practice of allowing voter registration on Election Day.

The organization's national board president was in Billings yesterday to advocate for making voting access easier. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(4:01)

**10 Sept 2014    Debate over Debates/Poli Sci Prof Craig Wilson    JY**

The debate about debates is not new during election years.

This November's general election is no different. What is unusual is several Montana media organizations have tried to sponsor fall debates, but have been turned down by at least one of the candidates running for the open U-S House and U-S Senate seats.

That led Jackie Yamanaka to wonder if debates still matter... and she posed that question to long-time MSU Billings political science professor and pollster Craig Wilson.

**“In the public's eye, Jackie, I think they expect debates...**

**TAPE: (3:41)**

**“.....gamesmanship for some time now and nothing seems to have been definitively decided.”**

**HOST OUT:** For now, there is at least one U-S House debate scheduled with the two candidates. The MTN Television Network sponsored debate is planned for October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Billings Gazette and Yellowstone Public Radio have an event scheduled for September 29<sup>th</sup> at MSU Billings. Democrat John Lewis has confirmed. Republican Ryan Zinke has said would **not** attend citing an unnamed scheduling conflict. The event organizers say the invitation to Zinke to attend remains and the event will take place.

Negotiations continue over a U-S Senate debate or debates.

Absentee ballots are to be available to Montana voters around October 6<sup>th</sup>. Election Day is November 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Environment

**8 July 2014      CSI – Hail damage issues                      JY**

Montana's commissioner of insurance is sending experts to Billings this week to answer insurance questions from area residents who struggling to get their hail-damaged homes and other property repaired.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, residents will be able to meet one-on-one with state officials to discuss insurance problems, scams or other issues.

(1:33)

**HOST OUT:** Three public meetings with state insurance experts will be held Wednesday and Thursday. For specific meeting locations and times, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**30 July 2014      Zinke/energy plan                                      JY**

Republican congressional candidate Ryan Zinke says Montana's energy resources should be developed to ensure the nation has energy independence.

**ZINKE: Any energy plan that doesn't include coal, oil and gas is really an energy plan that is tantamount to pixie dust and hope and doesn't take into consideration MT's assets. (:14)**

Zinke is also calling for streamlined permitting of projects and temporarily halting federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

He released his energy plan today (yesterday) in Billings. He categorizes it as an "all-of-the-above energy strategy" that also includes solar, wind, hydro, and nuclear power generation.

**ZINKE: My opponent's plan doesn't mention oil, coal or gas. And I don't know how you can have an energy plan that doesn't. it also supports continuing subsidies on wind and solar. (:14)**

Zinke says he doesn't believe the government should decide energy "winners and losers."

In response, a spokeswoman for Democratic congressional candidate John Lewis says the campaign is pleased Zinke is using some of Lewis' ideas on energy. But Kathy Weber said in an email statement that "Zinke's plan is laced with partisan rhetoric that does nothing to solve problems or bring people together toward solutions."

Weber says Zinke is wrong because Lewis doesn't call for subsidies for wind or solar energy.

**4 August 2014      Smokey Bear      JY**

Smokey Bear turns 70 years old on Saturday.

To celebrate the Bureau of Land Management's Wildland Fire station near the Logan International Airport in Billings is hosting an open house. The public is invited to meet Smokey Bear, get a close up look at firefighting equipment, and eat cupcakes. And as Jackie Yamanaka reports, families can also learn more about wildfire prevention.

(1:55)

**HOST OUT:** You can see pictures of some of the firefighting aircraft that's been stationed at the Tanker Air Base at the Interagency Dispatch center this summer at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

The open house for Smokey Bear's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday will be held at the BLM's Wildland Fire Station. It's located at 1299 Rimtop Drive, just east of Airport. The open house begins at 1 o'clock Saturday afternoon.

**22 Sept 2014      MT Water Plan/public comment      JY**

As a headwater state, Montana is blessed with water. And that's exactly why state officials say Montana needs to update its strategic plan for managing its water resources.

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is beginning a series of public meetings around the state to take final public comment on its draft 2015 Montana State Water Plan. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:03)

**HOST OUT:** For more information on the Draft 2015 Montana State Water Plan and the public meeting dates and locations, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

## Education

**3 July 2014      New MSUB Chancellor      JY**

Tuesday was the first official "work day" for the new chancellor at MSU-Billings. And even though the moving van had just arrived at his new residence yesterday, Mark Nook had a packed schedule meeting with community members and the media.

Jackie Yamanaka was among those who sat down with Nook to talk about the move and his plans for the next 100 days.

(4:11)

**AM - 22 Aug 2014      Nook-MSUB/community      JY**

The new chancellor at MSU-Billings says in the month-and-a-half that's he's been on the job he's learned how vital the campus is to the local business community.

Mark Nook points to survey of 2013 graduates of MSUB

**NOOK: First of all 70% of them returned the survey. Where else does 70% of the people return a survey? (:07)**

Nook says of those, 97% of those are employed or enrolled in graduate school. Of those who are employed – 53% work in Billings.

**NOOK: so I get why the business community when I was down talking to the biz community and the mayor, why the biz community is so in love with MSUB. Because without us the thriving business economy that is here in Billings doesn't exist. We're providing the students that are in the biz, in the HC fields, that are in the social services fields that are everything that makes this community run. (:26)**

That vitality, though.. combined with the regional energy boom of the Bakken oil play, is drawing potential students away from pursuing a higher education, he says.

Still Nook says its possible to grow enrollment numbers. Part of that effort is combined with retaining current students are luring back those who left without college without a degree.

He points to data from 2012 and 2013 that found among those graduates, it took nearly half of them 6-to-8 or more years to get that Baccalaureate degree.

**NOOK: What's this mean? This means we've got a lot more ...these are students who started as FT ...who have stepped out...life has gotten in the way of their education...to where they haven't got the finances to continue this next semester...so their FT part of the time. (:34)**

Nook says it's still too early to know how many students the campus may retain. The goal is 70% but early indicators suggest the campus isn't there yet.

And an anticipated enrollment drop has already resulted in some preliminary budget reductions.

The academic year begins September 3<sup>rd</sup> at MSU Billings and City College.

As a point of disclosure, MSU-Billings owns the license for Yellowstone Public Radio.

#### **25 Aug 2014 MSUB/PUK exchange agreement JY**

MSU Billings and the Prefectural University of Kumamoto today renewed its agreement to cooperate and collaborate with its existing student and faculty exchanges.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports the campuses say the study abroad programs helps students better understand the global environment.

(2:29)

#### **AM\_26 Aug 2014 MSUB/PUK exchange agreement JY**

Montana State University Billings and the Prefectural University of Kumamoto renewed its agreement for continued student and faculty exchanges.

The two universities say the study abroad programs helps students better understand the global environment.

Minoru Koga is president of the Prefectural University of Kumamoto. During a brief signing ceremony yesterday, he said this is his first visit to Montana and to the Billings campus.

**KOGA: very beautiful, but very cold.**

Koga says this agreement strengthens the existing ties between the two universities. He says students today must be exposed to the global community.

**KOGA: students must go abroad...(:39)... students here.”**

Nook says international students benefit MSUB's students as they learn about other countries and cultures.

Koga also hopes to grow the collaboration between the faculty at the two universities, particularly on environmental issues.

Paul Foster is MSU Billings' executive director of the Office of International Studies and Outreach. He says this agreement is part of MSUB's comprehensive international studies program.

Foster says currently there are 5 students from Japan at MSUB in the intensive English Language program. All are staying with local families.

**FOSTER: They just came back from Yellowstone...and then we are sending 10 of our students to Kumamoto...international students. (:23)**

Foster says MSUB has numerous study abroad opportunities for students. Besides Japan, this includes China, Europe, and the campus is working on new programs with Macedonia, the Balkans, Turkey, and perhaps South Africa.

**3 Sept 2014      Curtis/Education policy & debates      JY**

College students are returning to classes across Montana. Democratic U-S Senate candidate Amanda Curtis is using that fact to talk about her plan to address the high cost of a college education and the debt load students face.

Curtis brought her message to Montana State University Billings today (yesterday), the first day of classes. Days before she visited the University of Montana and Montana State.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, Curtis also called on her Republican opponent to debate her on this and other issues.

(3:17)

**4 Sept 2014      Bullock/Dual Enrollment      JY**

Governor Steve Bullock visited Billings West High School today (yesterday) to learn about their dual enrollment pilot program that allows students earn college credit while still in high school. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(4:38)

**HOST OUT:** You can see figures on Montana's dual enrollment program at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

# Native American Issues

## Health

**1 July 2014 BC/Medical residency JY**

A dozen medical school graduates took their next step in their career. They're beginning their residency at Billings Clinic.

The inaugural White Coat ceremony was held today (yesterday) for those accepted the new Internal Medicine residency program. As Jackie Yamanaka reports, this ritual signals formal admission into the new role - physician.

(2:51)

**9 Wed 2014 Devore- Healthcare Summit JY**

The President and CEO of a company that helps improve the healthcare industry says while Obamacare is here to stay, it isn't the fix-all for all of the problems in healthcare.

Susan DeVore spoke at the Big Sky Business Health Care Summit taking place today and tomorrow (this week) in Billings. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:25)

**10 July 2014 Healthcare Summit – ACA/Medicaid JY**

Healthcare providers, economic development officials and economists say the healthcare industry is an economic powerhouse across the state of Montana.

Healthcare officials say the industry is also undergoing innovations and rapid change.

That change is being spurred by the federal Affordable Care Act, as well as the uncertainty over Medicaid expansion.

Jackie Yamanaka has more about how healthcare officials are coping... and still delivering care.

(5:18)

**HOST OUT:** The Big Sky Business Health Care Summit wrapped up this afternoon (yesterday) in Billings.

**29 July 2014 Wounded veteran/TBI & PTSD JY**

A highly decorated master sergeant who was medically retired following injuries from a roadside bomb wants other veterans to know there's hope.

Mark Vomund (voh-mund) and his family are at a retreat in Red Lodge this week with three other military families. The trip is sponsored by Operation Second Chance. The organization was formed to help wounded service members and their families.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, Vomund talked about his life, his combat injuries, and his on-going recovery during a public talk last night (Monday night) in Red Lodge.

(4:29)

**HOST OUT:** Tomorrow, Jackie Yamanaka talks to Master Sergeant Mark Vomund about some of the other challenges he and other veterans face in under the current political climate. It's part of an on-going series on conversations with veterans.

You can find links to Operation Second Chance at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**30 July 2014                      Veterans Series/Vomund                      JY**

As political and military leaders are winding down the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, thousands of service members are returning home. Many need services... whether its medical care, help finding a job or housing. And they're coming home to a political climate of fiscal austerity.

As part of an on-going series, Jackie Yamanaka is gathering individual stories from veterans about that... and the challenges they face in getting the care they need.

(5:13)

**HOST OUT:** You can see what hyperbaric treatments the Military Health Care system covers at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**13 July 2014                      Walsh/Alzheimer's field hearing                      JY**

Alzheimer's disease causes a physical, psychological, and financial toll on thousands of Montana patients and their families. And as the number of aging residents continues to grow, more and more families will be affected.

That was the message delivered during a Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing held today (yesterday) in Billings. Jackie Yamanka reports.

(3:51)

**HOST OUT:** Senator John Walsh's office will continue to accept written testimony on Alzheimer's disease for the Senate Special Committee on Aging for the next 5 days.

## Rural Issues in Montana

**31 July 2014                      Gift to BC and St V's                      JY**

A humble farmer from Laurel left a multi-million dollar gift to be split between Billings' two hospitals.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(1:33)

**26 August 2014                      Veterans Job Workshop/Red Lodge                      JY**

An organization based in Red Lodge wants to help military service members and their families transition from life in U-S Armed Services to life as a civilian. This means finding a home and a job.

According to the U-S Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for veterans who've served since 2001 was about 9-percent in 2013. That's slightly higher than the average rate for that year of just over 7-percent for that year.

As Jackie Yamanaka reports, local Elks Lodge and the community of Red Lodge are hosting a 2-day workshop to help veterans get a job or transition to a new career.

(2:12)

**HOST OUT:** For information on how to sign up for the Veterans Education and Job Training Program, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).



## **AM 27 August 2014 Veterans Job Workshop/Red Lodge JY**

An organization based in Red Lodge will hold a free workshop next month to help military veterans get a job or change careers.

Warene Wall is one the founders and co-chair of the steering committee for Red Lodge's Yellow Ribbon Community.

She says the organization found veterans in the area had no comprehensive program to help them transition from active duty into the civilian job market. So they along with the local Elks Lodge created one.

**WALL: it is very difficult for most service members to translate their skills and experience from serving in the military to the civilian market. So that's why the skills evaluation is so important because we help them to do that. We take the skills inventory that they provide us and we translate that into things that are going to be very recognizable on a resume to civilian employment. (:33)**

At the first workshop last May, attendees came from across Montana; one traveled from Utah.

The second workshop will be held September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Red Lodge.

According to the U-S Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate for veterans who've served since 2001 was about 9-percent in 2013. That's slightly higher than the average rate for that year of just over 7-percent for that year.

She says trainers will work with participants to prepare resumes, practice job interviews, and talk about how to search for jobs. They'll also be given resources, including businesses or industries that are reaching out to hire veterans.

**WALL: we don't guarantee them a job but we're preparing them to look for a job, a new job, or perhaps start a new career (:09)**

Funding for this workshop comes from an impact grant from the Elks Club, nationally. Because of the grant, there is no cost to attendees for lodging, meals, the training, or materials. Wall says their only expense will be travel to and from Red Lodge.

The workshop is capped at 10 participants.

Information on how to sign up for the Veterans Education and Job Training Program is found at our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

## **Wildlife**

### **7 July 2014 FWP – Bison mgmt plan JY**

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials are seeking public input on issues related to bison management and conservation in the state.

The agency has scheduled a mid-July meeting in Billings to gather public input. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:44)

**HOST OUT:** The upcoming meeting on the discussion of whether to move forward to develop a statewide bison management and conservation plan is scheduled July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at the Big Horn Resort in Billings.

An agenda is available at the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website.

**19 Aug 2014 Sneak Peek – Scheels JY**

Avid big game hunters know September 6<sup>th</sup> as opening day for archery for a number of big game species in Montana. The sporting goods store Scheels also hopes customers remember it will also be their grand opening for their 220-thousand square foot store in Billings.

Jackie Yamanaka joined other business leaders for a sneak peek at the new store and filed this audio postcard.

(1:40)

**AM\_19 Aug 2014 Sneak Peek – Scheels JY**

Avid big game hunters know September 6<sup>th</sup> as opening day for archery for a number of big game species in Montana. The sporting goods store Scheels also hopes customers will also remember it as the date for their grand opening for their 220-thousand square foot store in Billings.

**AMB: This has 100 reflective targets that are laser driven...each target does something different when you hit it... (fade)**

Matt Cowen(cow-en) is an assistant store leader in Billings. The Big Timber native has been with the company since 2002.

**COWEN: and this is one of the best things for the Blgs community that I've ever seen not just because I work here but because my family gets just as much excitement out of it as I do. (:09)**

Cowen says while the roots are as a sporting goods retailer, this store wants to give customers an experience. It has a number of shooting and sports simulators, a 16-car working Ferris Wheel, and there's a 16-thousand gallon salt water aquarium.

**COWEN: (amb) It's really fun having a scuba diver cleaning the tank and feeding the fish.**

There's also a full restaurant... oh and sporting goods – whether its for golf clubs, athletic clothing or fishing and hunting equipment.

**COWEN: When you walk into guns we want you to feel you are in a gun shop and if you walk over to archery we want you to feel you are in an archery pro shop. That's our plan is to build specialty shops out of all of the areas of our store. (:14)**

He adds each area is staffed with employees who are passionate about that activity.

The new Billings Scheels will employ over 300 people. The current store in the Rimrock Mall will close its doors for good Sunday at 6 pm. The grand opening at the new location at Shiloh Crossing on Billings' West end is September 6<sup>th</sup>.

**21 Aug 2014    Nook-MSUB/community                    JY**

The new chancellor at MSU-Billings says in the month-and-a-half that's he's been on the job he's learned how vital the campus is to the local business community.

Mark Nook spoke today to faculty and staff at the annual Convocation that welcomes the start of the new academic year.

Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:22)

## Economy

**6 Montana 2014    Daines/Carter's Brewing                    JY**

The state's growing microbrewery business are part of adding value to Montana's agricultural products.

Congressman Steve Daines stopped at Carter's Brewing in Billings yesterday afternoon as part of his statewide swing across the state highlighting the state's agriculture industry.

**DAINES: When you realize nearly ½ of the beers produced in this country use MT wheat and barley and that tells you why aren't we adding more of that value right here in MT so we really have a great opportunity because MT wheat and barley produce some of the best wheat and barley in the world so let's add that value right here in MT and keep some of those jobs right here in MT. (:23)**

Daines started his tour Monday with visits to Montana State's Post Agronomy Farm in Bozeman. He then met with producers in Big Timber and Huntley.

Friday, Daines is to visit the Miller Coors Plant in Power before heading to the General Mills Plant in Great Falls.

While at Carter's Brewing, Daines toured the facility with the owner and brew master Mike Uhrick (your-rick) and tasted one of the breweries 16 products - Derailed IPA.

**PM 6 Aug 2016    Daines – Ag Tour/Carter's                    JY**

Montana's growing microbrewery business is a part of adding value to the state's agricultural products... that's according to Congressman Steve Daines.

Daines stopped by Carter's Brewing yesterday afternoon as part of his statewide swing around Montana highlighting the state's agricultural industry. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:15)

**19 August 2014    Blgs Refinery/County Commission                    JY**

Yellowstone County officials welcomed a proposed refinery project near Billings.

The county commissioners listened to a presentation today on the project and offered to help Quantum Energy get with its proposed new refinery in the Billings-area. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(3:01)

### **19 August 2014 Blgs Refinery/County Commission JY**

Yellowstone County officials welcomed news developers want to locate a proposed refinery project to process Bakken crude near Billings.

The county commissioners listened to a presentation yesterday on the proposal that would also build micro-refineries in Baker and Fairview in Montana and two-others in North Dakota.

The partners are Quantum Energy Incorporated and Bilfinger Westcon, Incorporated.

The proposed refineries would process crude from the Bakken and capture CO2 to be used to enhance oil recovery back in the field.

Bill Bradley is the project director for Bilfinger.

**BRADLEY: One of the benefits of this is we're going to start with state of the art design... older refineries expanding to bring up to the standards, we're starting at the top of the standards. (:10)**

Besides refining diesel for local sale, Bradley says the plant will also strip out volatile compounds out of Bakken Crude. Backers say that makes it a clean-energy project. It's also been dubbed a micro-refinery because they would not process more than 20-thousand barrels of oil a day.

**BRADLEY: the 20,000 bbls is based on emissions that keeps it under the federal guidelines. It allows the state of MT to approve their processes. So it creates a ceiling. We're not going to expand that ceiling. We're going to stay at the federal, excuse me, state level. (:18)**

Bradley says the permits are being prepared now to be submitted to the Montana Departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources and Conservation. Because of the refinery's small size, he says it would not need review by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

When Yellowstone County Commissioners asked company officials what the company needed, representative said help with the permitting process in Montana.

Bradley says a similar project is scheduled to open in Dickinson, North Dakota in late December or early January. He says Montana historically has a problem when it comes to permitting such projects.

This was just a presentation before the Yellowstone County Commission and not a hearing. But always at the end of the regular weekly meeting, commissioners always take public comment on county business.

Deb Fisher of Billings was the only one who spoke. She's concerned about the refinery project... namely the volatile nature of Bakken crude as well as any impacts on public health.

**FISHER: the fact that they're trying to limit emissions is great but we do already have 3 refineries in Blgs and I raised a kid who has asthma...carry an inhaler wherever she runs. (:17)**

Officials with the refinery project expect to announce a Yellowstone county location later this week. The timetable calls for groundbreaking in mid- to-late Spring.

Andrew Kacic is the chief executive of Quantum. He says the project would create up to 600 construction jobs with up to 150 permanent employees with the lowest employee earning at least 100-thousand dollars a year.

**22 August 2014      Daines/Coal regulations                      JY**

Montana Congressman Steve Daines says he's not against the regulation of the coal industry, but he told a group of yesterday in Billings he's against unreasonable regulations.

The Republican sat down with representatives of business, unions, the Crow Tribe and others to discuss the latest proposed EPA carbon emission regulations and the impact it might have on Montana. Jackie Yamanaka reports.

(2:01)

**15 Sept 2015      Budget/short term fix                                      JY**

Montana Senator Jon Tester is urging his Congressional colleagues to act this week to prevent a federal government shutdown at the end of the month.

The current budget ends September 30<sup>th</sup>, the end of the federal fiscal year.

Tester told reporters during a conference call today (yesterday) the American people don't want another event like last fall when the National Parks, federal programs and services closed.

**TESTER: I don't believe there's a person back here that doesn't understand the fact that it had some very negative impacts on our economy and we ought not be doing that kind of stuff because if we're talking about paying off the national debt, getting our debt and deficit under control the worse thing we can do is to hang boat anchors on our economy.**

**(:20)**

A short-term funding bill – known as a continuing resolution - likely will have a vote this week in the U-S House. It would fund the federal government at current levels until December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tester says it was written without controversial provisions. He thinks as long as none are added, the bill should pass this week.

Last fall, the federal government shut down from October first through the 16<sup>th</sup> because Congress was unable to pass funding legislation.

Republican Congressman Steve Daines issued a written statement to YPR regarding this week's scheduled continuing resolution vote. He says "The American people expect and deserve their elected officials to work together to find solutions. It's important that we get that done this week."

**23 Sept 2014      Matheson/needs workers                                      JY**

A company that does business at the Billings airport is aggressively seeking employees to handle the upcoming rush during the Christmas season.

Matheson Flight Extenders does business across the country, but company executives say Billings is the only location where it's having trouble hiring enough workers.

Jackie Yamanaka has more on the tight labor market in the Billings area.

(4:20)

**HOST OUT:** For more information, go to our website: [ypradio-dot-org-slash-news](http://ypradio-dot-org-slash-news).

**29 Sept 2014: LIVE U-S House debate from Petro Theater at MSU Billings**