City, county in ‘holding pattern’ while Marsy’s Law is staying pending lawsuit

BY WHITNEY BERMES
Chronicle Staff Writer

The Montana Supreme Court has stayed the state’s new crime victims’ rights law while a lawsuit challenges its validity, so law enforcement in Bozeman say they will wait until things play out in court to exact any changes.

In Missoula, Bozeman and Gallatin County law enforcement, prosecutors and victims’ advocates have geared up to comply with Marsy’s Law, or 2016 state legislation that added a “bill of rights” for crime victims to Montana’s constitution. It was set to go into effect July 1.

Marsy’s Law lays out a number of things crime victims have the right to, including:

• to be given a “Marsy’s card,” a document that informs them of their constitutional and rights, by law enforcement
• to receive notice of all of an alleged offender’s court proceedings
• to be notified if an alleged offender is released or escapers from jail
• to provide input to prosecutors throughout the length of an alleged offender’s case
• to prevent disclosure information that could be used by locate or harass a victim, as addresses, phone numbers or other “confidential or privileged” information
• to receive restitution from offenders prior to them pay other court fees
• to also broaden the definition of a victim to include victims of property crimes and family members or others with relationships to a victim

The week before the law was to go into effect, however, the Montana Civil Liberties Union of Montana, sued by the Montana Association of Counties, the Montana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Lewis and Clark County Attorney Leo Gallagher and Billings attorney Mike Miller filed a petition with the high court seeking to void the law.

More HISTORY | A7

LIVING HISTORY

Bozeman high school teachers say they’re giving students a “bill of rights” for crime victims.

By Marshall Swearingen

MSU team practices balloon launch for solar eclipse

BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN
MSU News Service

Livingston couple breeds, trains guard dogs — for a price

BY GAIL SCHONTZLER
Chronicle Staff Writer

Livingston Enterprise

Big Sky

BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

City Desk: 587-4491 | CitydesK@dailychronicle.com

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

TEXTER TAMTRANT

Officers responded to a reported domestic disturbance. After an investigation, the officers determined the disturbance was unfounded. There was no one in the residence who was throwing a temper tantrum.

POLICE REPORTS, PAGE A7

For more news, go to BozemanDailyChronicle.com