

## BIG SKY

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## WHAT THE HAY?

A vehicle hit a hay bale on Interstate 90.

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## Bullock calls health care plan a step backward

By MATT VOLZ

The Associated Press

HELENA — Montana's Republican U.S. senator joined the state's top Democrats in criticizing the Republican health care plan Monday after a nonpartisan analysis showed the legislation would lead to millions losing their coverage and insurance premiums continuing to rise over the next several years.

The Congressional Budget Office report said 14 million Americans would lose health care coverage next year under the Republican legislation, and 24 million by 2026.

Insurance premiums would rise until 2020, but end up lower compared to premiums under President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act by 2026, according to the analysis.

"We need to do better," U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Montana, said in a statement in response to the CBO report. "I want to see costs and premiums go down to make health care more affordable for Montana families."

Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock said the CBO analysis shows the GOP health proposal would be a "troubling step backwards."

"Ripping health care away from thousands of Montanans, cutting off the lifeline to our

hospitals, and keeping our taxpayer dollars back in Washington, D.C., is a sucker-punch to rural states like Montana," Gov. Steve Bullock said in a statement.

U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, called the Republican bill reckless and said Congress should work together to improve the Affordable Care Act instead of dismantling it.

State-by-state breakdowns detailing projected coverage losses were not immediately available. Bullock spokeswoman

Ronja Abel said the governor's budget office was analyzing the report and the potential impact to the state.

Montana's uninsured rate has fallen from 22 percent to 7 percent since the Affordable Care Act became law. Much of that came when the state expanded Medicaid in 2015, and 71,000 people now have health coverage through that program.

The Republican health proposal would seek to cap federal spending on Medicaid expansion, eliminate subsidies for oth-

ers and eliminate the mandate that people purchase coverage.

The effect would be to reduce federal deficits by \$337 billion over the next decade. Montana Securities and Insurance Commissioner Matthew Rosendale, a Republican, is encouraged by the positive effect on the federal budget, but is concerned about improving health care access and lowering costs, spokesman Kyle Schmauch said.

"Matt has been supporting legislation at the state level that can help improve access to health care and lower costs regardless of what action the federal government takes," Schmauch said.

## 2017 LEGISLATURE



## Historic home demolished



WHITNEY BERMES/CHRONICLE

A historic home located at 401 S. Willson Ave. in Bozeman was demolished Monday. The home sat on a lot owned by Bozeman developer Mike Delaney and his wife Ileana Indreland.

By WHITNEY BERMES  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A historic Willson Avenue home was demolished Monday after a stay issued by the city on its demolition expired.

The home, built sometime between 1884 and 1889, was torn down, leaving a pile of wood and rubble on the lot at 401 S. Willson Ave., at the southwest corner of Willson and Koch Street in Bozeman.

The home was on a lot owned by developer Mike Delaney and his wife, Ileana Indreland, who live next door at 415 S. Willson, and who

## The city's two-year stay of demolition on the South Willson Avenue house owned by Mike Delaney and Ileana Indreland expired in February

bought the property in 2014.

That year, Delaney applied for a permit to demolish the home and build a one-story conservatory in its place.

The application was denied, with the city determining it was not in compliance with historic preservation and neighborhood character criteria under terms of the city's conservation overlay district.

The two-story, 2,687-square-

foot residence was one of the first "substantial" homes built on Willson Avenue and was part of the National Register of Historic Places, contributing to Bozeman's Bon Ton Historic District.

A two-year stay was placed on the project. However, that stay expired in February, allowing the owners to move forward with the demolition.

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## FWP to form chronic wasting citizen panel

By MICHAEL WRIGHT  
Chronicle Staff Writer

State officials are convening a citizen panel to talk about how they will respond to a fatal wildlife disease that biologists say will end up in Montana sooner or later.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is accepting applications for spots on a Citizen Advisory Panel on chronic wasting disease, an always-fatal neurological condition that can infect deer, elk and moose. The group will meet as many as six times throughout the next year to talk about the disease and the state's potential response.

John Vore, FWP's game management bureau chief, said they've already received 14 applications for a maximum of 12 spots. He said the agency will use the panel to flesh out its response and to help get the word out about what the disease means for the state.

"A lot of people in Montana aren't aware of what CWD is and the threat it poses to wildlife," Vore said. "We want folks to know that this is a very serious disease."

A post on the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance's website says the condition causes a "spongy degeneration of the brains of infected animals resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss of bodily functions and death." There is no evidence that the disease poses a risk to people, the Alliance's website says, though people are encouraged to not eat meat from infected animals. The site says livestock appear resistant to natural infection, but researchers are studying that further.

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## Livingston grain elevator to get new life as mixed-use development

By LEWIS KENDALL  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Standing tall on the corner of K and Park streets, Livingston's Yellowstone Grain Elevator is set for a makeover.

Local developer Chris Salacinski purchased the 18,000 square-foot building, which was erected in the early 1900s, last fall after it laid dormant for several years. Salacinski plans to turn the elevator into a mixed-use facility complete with a handful of apartments and Neptune's Brewery, which will move its taproom and restaurant into the space next year.

"It's a really, really cool project and it's in an area that could use an economic boost," said Salacinski, who also recently bought the city's historic Teslow Inc. grain elevator, before turning it over to a grassroots preservation group.

Last week, Salacinski and Neptune's owner, Jon Berens, received a boost in the form of a \$52,000 Montana Department of Commerce grant that the group will use for planning and design.

"The fact that the building's been empty for quite a number of years means it's a real exciting project to be a part of," said Paul Reichert, executive director of Prospera Business Network, which facilitated the grant. "It's a real chance to do something significant for the city of Livingston."

The grant is the largest of its type the nonprofit has received, Reichert added.

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## Bozeman firefighter finishes 5th in annual stairclimb

By WHITNEY BERMES  
Chronicle Staff Writer

A Bozeman firefighter finished fifth out of nearly 1,800 participants in an annual stair climbing competition Saturday, while his team raised more than \$6,300 for cancer research.

For the seventh year in a row, a team of Bozeman firefighters made the trip to the Seattle for the Scott Firefighter Stairclimb, a grueling competition where firefighters in full gear race up 69 floors of the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle.

The 26th annual event is a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, which works to find cures and ensure access to treatments for blood cancer patients. This year's stairclimb raised more than \$2 million.

Bozeman's Luke Szymanski, a probationary fire medic, finished the race in 12 minutes and 9 seconds,

putting him fifth out of 1,795 competitors and first in his age division.

Engineer Josh Charles, a seven-time stairclimb competitor and regional ambassador for the event, finished 37th overall with an even 18-minute time.

And Bozeman Fire Chief Josh Waldo, who competed for his second consecutive year, finished with a time of 26 minutes and 58 seconds.

Leading up to the race, Bozeman firefighters raised more than \$6,300 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, bringing the department's total to more than \$64,000 in the seven years the department has climbed.

"It's a huge accomplishment and says a lot about our community and how they stepped up with us again this year," Charles said. "It's fun to brag that we scored this well, but ultimately it comes back to the fundraising."

Each year, the team picks honorees that it runs for, and

## Other local firefighters compete in stairclimb

Other Gallatin County fire departments were represented at Saturday's Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle.

The Hyalite Fire Department had 13 firefighters participate in the event.

Dylan Gillespie finished ninth overall in the competition with a time of 12:31.

Also climbing for Hyalite were Davis Johnson, Patrick Danahey, Matthew Johnson, Alex Richard, Charles Haworth, Sean Komora, Austin Davis, Lawrance Eaton, Will Charlton, Andrew Eggers, Chris Brantin and Alan Anderson.

Leading Central Valley Fire District, which had eight participants in the stairclimb, was Chris Andre, who finished 44th overall with a time of 14:42.

Also competing for Central Valley were Philippe Grondine, Jordan McGarty, Collin Brozka, Kevin Strickler, Anthony Stratman, Leila Pavolich and Katie McNelis.

this year it was Frank Foster, who died from leukemia two weeks before Bozeman firefighters' 2015 stairclimb.

Charles said they also climbed for firefighters across the state who are struggling with all types of cancer, hoping to raise awareness for the increased risk of cancer firefighters face.

Bozeman firefighters will

continue fundraising for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society through the end of the month.

Donations to the Bozeman team can be made online at firefighterstairclimb.org. They can also be dropped off at any of the three Bozeman firehouses located at 34 N. Rouse Ave., 410 S. 19th Ave., and 1705 Vaquero Parkway.