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UNDER BILL, LOCKWOOD COULD CREATE ITS OWN HIGH SCHOOL / A6

TODAY'S WEATHER

35 14

Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow

6-day forecast / C4

Billings Gazette

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015

24-HOUR UPDATES AT BILLINGSGAZETTE.COM

LOCAL EDITION



KLABOE CAPS CAREER

West High Bears football coach to retire after 29 seasons B1



GIVING BACK

Boys and Girls Club kids pack boxes at Billings Food Bank C1

CREWS TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLED FROM EASTERN MONTANA PIPELINE

Searching for the source



LARRY MAYER/Gazette Staff photos

Crews work to clean up an oil spill from Bridger Pipeline's broken pipeline near Glendive in this aerial view on Monday.

Bottled drinking water to be distributed in Glendive

By TOM LUTEY And CHRIS CIOFFI tlutey@billingsgazette.com

At least 42,000 gallons of oil has leaked into the Yellowstone River from a broken pipeline, leaving the Glendive city water supply smelling and tasting like petroleum.

State and federal officials said Monday that preliminary tests indicate some oil from Saturday's Bridger Pipeline break got into Glendive's public water supply.

Bottled water will be distributed at The EPEC building located at 313 S. Merrill Ave. on Tuesday.

"We tested the water and at some taps we detected hydrocarbons," said Paul Peronard, the on-scene coordinator for the EPA.

Monday, water samples were sent to a laboratory in Billings for further testing.

Meanwhile, the Glendive water treatment plant has stopped drawing water from the Yellowstone River.

The discovery came as a surprise to cleanup officials because Glendive's water intake is 14 feet beneath the river surface.



The city of Glendive is shown in an aerial view on Monday morning. Between 12,500 and 50,000 gallons of oil spilled into the Yellowstone River on Saturday about six miles up river from Glendive.



Only small areas of open water can be seen on the Yellowstone River as crews work to contain an oil spill near Glendive in this aerial view on Monday.

pass over the area without interacting with the city water intake.

Glendive residents like Carrie Flynn Keiser began reporting the taste and smell of oil in their drinking water Sunday.

"We heard about it about an hour before we tasted it (in) the water," she said.

Keiser, who lives at 600 Snyder Ave., said she was alerted to the spill because her mother-in-law saw a friend's Facebook post about it.

Please see Spill, A3

"Oil has made it into the river. We do not know how much at this point."

— Bill Salvin, Bridger Pipeline spokesman



JAMES WOODCOCK/Gazette Staff

Montana State University Billings Chancellor Dr. Mark Nook, left, listens as student Baudry Metangmo speaks during the Martin Luther King Jr. bell-ringing ceremony on the campus Monday morning.

Bell ringing begins week of reflection at MSUB

'Let us advocate for one another,' speaker says

By ZACH BENOIT zbenoit@billingsgazette.com

With a series of loud and clear clangs on Monday morning, almost 100 people kicked off Montana State University Billings' annual Power of One week by joining thousands of others in a national bell-ringing ceremony to celebrate and honor Martin Luther King Jr.

"Together we will honor King's legacy of equality," said MSUB student Lacey Morgan.

The ceremony honors King's 10 calls to let freedom ring during his historic 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech and started at MSUB a morning of reflection,

Please see MSUB, A3

State welfare system's accuracy comes under fire

Workers under oath to Legislature: System for verifying, approving benefits is inadequate

By MIKE DENNISON, Gazette State Bureau

HELENA — The accuracy of Montana's welfare system came under the microscope Monday at the Legislature, spotlighted by rare, under-oath testimony from state workers subpoenaed by Republican legislative leaders.

Two welfare workers from Libby and a third colleague from Kalispell who recently retired appeared before a pair of legislative committees, saying the state's computerized system to verify and approve benefits is woefully inadequate.

"I'm here to speak about the mismanagement and waste I've seen over the last two years," said Kirsten Brown, who is the client service coordinator in the state

Please see Welfare, A6



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INDEX

Classified.....A7 Dear Abby.....B4 Local & State.....C1 Sports.....B1 Comics.....B3 Deaths.....C3 Opinion.....A5 TV.....B4

COMING WEDNESDAY: Get ready for the Super Bowl with some treats from Local Flavor. Food