

Last Medicaid expansion bill up for vote

By JOAN BARRON
Star-Tribune capital bureau

CHEYENNE — Eager for what may be their last chance to speak out, supporters of Medicaid expansion are expected to fill the large meeting room in the State Capitol today to support the last bill dealing with the subject still alive in the legislative session.

Senate File 118, sponsored by Sen. Chris Rothfuss, D-Laramie, is a compromise designed to address the objections of many opponents.

For example, it allows the state to pull the plug on the expansion if the federal government fails to fulfill its promise to pay for 90 percent of the cost.

Rothfuss wasn't optimistic Tuesday about the bill's chances. He said it likely will fail on a 3-2 vote in the Senate Labor, Health and Social Services Committee.

If it does, one remaining option is to offer the bill as an amendment

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Pete Gosar
Chairman, Wyoming Democrats

“I hope some legislators show up and listen so if we do a budget amendment, they will be more knowledgeable.”

Sen. Chris Rothfuss
D-Laramie

to the budget bill.

Rothfuss said it will be good to at least discuss the issue.

“I hope some legislators show up and listen so if we do a budget amendment, they will be more knowledgeable,” he said.

Representatives of various groups that support Medicaid expansion, including churches and labor unions, are expected to attend today's meeting.

Wyoming Democrats held a telephone news conference

Tuesday to support the bill on grounds it will help more than 17,000 uninsured Wyoming residents.

“We're pressing the need for this. It is about people,” said Pete Gosar, state party chairman.

He said 80 percent of the people who would be helped have jobs.

Rep. Lee Filer of Cheyenne, a co-sponsor of SF 118, said the bill can show Republicans that expansion can work.

“The Republicans in Wyoming have been hit really hard with the hard right,” Filer said.

The Republicans, he added, are against anything related to the Affordable Care Act or the Obama administration.

“They're really putting the party over the people,” he said.

Rothfuss later said the bill received more Republican than Democratic votes during introduction. It also has four Republican and four Democratic sponsors.

During the Democrats' teleconference, Jacque Bruner was introduced as someone who would greatly benefit from Medicaid expansion.

The 47-year-old Rawlins resident holds down two part-time jobs, has high blood pressure and asthma and can't afford health insurance.

She also has a college degree but can't find a job in her field. Bruner told of her struggles to pay for her medication and physician visits. “We need a long-term solution,” she said.

The bill calls for the traditional Medicaid expansion for one year.

During that period, state officials would negotiate with federal officials on a suitable plan for the state.

Contact capital bureau reporter Joan Barron at 307-632-1244 or joan.barron@trib.com.

Man pleads not guilty after threat

By PATRICK SIMONAITIS
Star-Tribune staff writer

A Mills man who allegedly threatened to cut off a woman's head if she didn't join his gang pleaded not guilty to three charges in Natrona County Circuit Court on Tuesday afternoon.

Melvin Brown, 32, was charged with criminal entry, unlawful contact and breach of peace after allegedly telling a woman her head would “wind up on CY Avenue” if she didn't join the MS-13's with him.

The MS-13's, or Mara Salvatrucha, are an international street gang comprised of “mostly Salvadoran nationals or first generation Salvadoran-Americans, but also Hondurans, Guatemalans, Mexicans, and other Central and South American immigrants” and are present in almost every state, according to the FBI's website. It is unclear whether Brown is actually a member of the gang.

Please see **THREAT, A4**

- Melvin Brown allegedly threatened he would decapitate woman for not joining his gang.
- He was charged with criminal entry, unlawful contact and breach of peace.
- The woman told police she had no idea who Brown was and had had no prior contact with him.



Rail cars are filled with coal and sprayed with a topper agent to suppress dust at Cloud Peak Energy's Antelope Mine north of Douglas. Dependent on environmental review, the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project would ship up to 48 million tons of U.S. coal to Asia.

Corps plans study of coal exports

By PHUONG LE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced plans Tuesday to perform a narrow environmental review of a proposed terminal on the Columbia River that would ship millions of tons of Wyoming and Montana coal to Asia.

The corps said its review would largely focus in and around the Millennium Bulk Terminals site near Longview, Wash., in contrast to the sweeping review of the project being undertaken by state of Washington and local regulators.

The state Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County, Wash., said last week they plan to review impacts that extend well beyond the project site, including global-

warming effects from burning the exported coal in Asia and rail impacts as coal is shipped by train from the Rockies through the state.

The Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports, a trade group that includes coal producers and other businesses, applauded the corps' move.

“The expanded permitting process undermines Washington's standing as a trade leader,” Ross Eisenberg with the National Association of Manufacturers said in a statement.

Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview is owned by Ambre Energy Ltd. and Arch Coal Inc. Coal from Wyoming and Montana would be carried on trains to the dock, which would ultimately be able to handle 44 million metric tons of coal a year.

Supporters say the project would create jobs and generate revenue for local governments. Opponents have fought it because of concerns about coal dust, pollution, train traffic, quality of life and other issues.

The county and state are conducting one review under state environmental law, while the army corps is doing a separate one under federal law.

The corps says it will take at least a year to complete its draft environmental impact statement.

The corps is also taking a different approach from state and county regulators, as it conducts a much narrower review of a \$665 million proposed coal-export project at Cherry Point near Bellingham, Wash. The Gateway Pacific Terminal project would ship up to 48 million tons of coal to Asia.

Career criminal charged with five new crimes

By PATRICK SIMONAITIS
Star-Tribune staff writer

A man with more than 60 previous arrests and citations in the Casper area is being held on \$7,500 bond after being charged with five new crimes, including false imprisonment and soliciting prostitution.

Casper Police say Thomas Glenn, 53, got into a woman's car on Friday outside of a Casper gas station, refused to get out, had her drive him to Emporium Video while the woman was “very afraid for her life,” and asked her or one of her friends to have sex with him for \$200.

“I have a lot of cash on me right now and I heard prostitution is tax-free,” Glenn allegedly told the woman.

The woman told Casper police she was scared of what Glenn would

do if she tried to run or call the police, so she drove around with him in the car until he eventually got out. Glenn didn't display a weapon, according to the affidavit.

When Glenn was located two days after the incident, he denied any crime occurred, telling police he had paid the woman for the ride and had not asked about sex with the woman, according to the arrest report.

During his initial appearance in Natrona County Circuit Court on Tuesday, Glenn again denied the allegations.

Assistant District Attorney Joshua Stensaas brought up the man's past criminal history when Glenn was being discussed, saying Glenn had been arrested or cited in the county on more than 60 previous occasions.

“This behavior is off the chart,” Stensaas said during the hearing. “This is one of the most significant criminal histories I've seen, and he continues to violate laws.”

Please see **CRIMINAL, A4**

Highway patrol: Wind was cause of I-80 truck crash

By PATRICK SIMONAITIS
Star-Tribune staff writer

Wind gusts likely reaching up to 60 mph along Interstate 80 caused a fatal accident last week, according to the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

A horse trailer being hauled Feb. 12 by a pickup truck was caught in the violent winds, causing the truck to overturn and veer off the road, according to the patrol.

Robert C. Kenney, 63, of Methuen, Mass., died about eight miles east of Arlington in Carbon County, the patrol says. Kenney's Dodge pickup truck rolled over and came to a rest on the driver's side.

Kenney died at the scene. He was wearing a seat belt.

The patrol says the Wyoming Department of Transportation had posted an advisory urging drivers not to travel with light high-profile vehicles.

■ A horse trailer being hauled Feb. 12 by a pickup truck was caught in violent winds, causing the truck to overturn and veer off the road.

■ Another fatality occurred along I-80 on Feb. 11 when David L. Crasley was driving east on the interstate and slammed into the rear of a parked tractor-trailer.

■ The two fatalities were the seventh and eighth accident deaths this year on state highways.

According to WYDOT, there were wind gusts of up to 50 mph recorded near Arlington around the time of the 11 a.m. accident.

Another fatality occurred along I-80 on Feb. 11. David L. Crasley was driving east on the interstate and slammed into the rear of a parked tractor-trailer about a mile west of Rawlins.

Crasley, 30, of Green River, was not wearing a seat belt, according to the patrol.

It is unknown why Crasley, who was driving a Mazda SUV, ran into the back of the truck. The driver of the truck was cited for a parking violation.

The two fatalities were the seventh and eighth accident deaths this year on state highways.

WEDNESDAY TO-DO

Visit the Tate, tie a blanket, learn Spanish

Compiled by SALLY ANN SHURMUR
Star-Tribune staff writer

An unusually large number of interesting events today in Casper prompts this edition of the week-end-to-do. Here is a summary, as provided to the newspaper:

The public is invited to attend the free **February Coffee, Tea and Dee** event from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Tate Geological Museum at Casper College. In addition to free coffee and tea from P. Hawk Coffee Roaster, courtesy of the Tate, there will be a special sale in the gift shop.

A screening of the four-part HBO documentary **"Weight of the Nation"** takes place at 11:30 a.m. on four consecutive Wednesdays at the Casper Recreation Center, 1801 E. Fourth St. A

discussion and Q&A session will follow each screening. Staff will provide free orientation to fitness equipment at the Recreation Center from 11 to 11:25 a.m. each week just before the screenings.

Wyoming Food for Thought Project's weekend food bag program continues to grow. Volunteers are needed at 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday at 315 N. Wolcott St. To stuff bags with food for hungry children who otherwise cannot eat over the weekend.

Woods Learning Center students invite the public to help make tied fleece blankets that will be presented to Casper-Make-A-Wish. From 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., blankets will be constructed in the school gym, 500 S. Walsh Drive. Take 1.5 or 2 yards (depending

on blanket size) of two colors of fleece, usually one solid and one print, and a good pair of scissors.

The **National Geographic** traveling map of Europe ends its stay to the Natrona County Public Library after the after-school program for elementary students at 4 p.m.

The **Platte River Trails Trust** hosts its annual meeting from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Tate Pump-house Trail Center. The public is welcome to visit with the board of directors at projects planned for 2014 and beyond, including two construction projects.

Casper Charla meets for conversational Spanish from 5 to 7 p.m. at Guadalajara Restaurant. All levels of Spanish are welcome, from beginners to native speakers.

Nos reunimos los miercoles en varios restaurantes mexicanos en Casper. Ven por una copa, un antojito o simplemente una charita.

Community Impact night from 5 to 9 p.m. at Pizza Ranch, 5011 E. Second St., benefits the Wyoming Medical Center volunteers. Proceeds will be used toward building the Healing Garden, a part of the McMurry West Tower project at Wyoming Medical Center.

Play bingo every Wednesday at the Eagles, with early-bird bingo at 6 p.m. and regular bingo at 6:30 p.m. Speed ball every Wednesday night, with a \$100 winner. The auditory has the snack bar open from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

The **Wednesday night** special at the Casper Elks lodge is chicken fried steak with mashed

potatoes and gravy, green beans and corn. All you can eat for \$7, children ages 5 to 12 are \$4. Serving from 6 to 7 p.m. Members, significant others and guests accompanied by a member are welcome.

The **People's Law School** at Casper College meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, through March 5. The People's Law School is sponsored by the Wyoming Trial Lawyers Association, and all speakers donate their time. For more information, call Michael Shickich or Wendy at the Injury Law Firm, 266-5297.

Community News editor Sally Ann Shurmur can be reached at 307-266-0503, sallyann.shurmur@trib.com, read her blog at trib.com/dshicr, or follow her on Twitter @WYOSAS.

CRIMINAL

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According to court records, Glenn has previously been convicted of multiple felonies, including aggravated assault, felony DUI and possession of a controlled substance.

Stenassas listed a number of other offenses, noting that Glenn also had 11 previous failures to appear, three failures to comply, and additional convictions for trespassing, shoplifting, interference and child abuse.

Glenn entered not guilty pleas Tuesday to the five counts against him, which were criminal trespass, criminal entry, soliciting prostitution and two counts of false imprisonment.

THREAT

Continued from page A3

The woman told police Brown made the threats after knocking on her door and pushing his way into her apartment, uninvited. The woman told police Brown lunged at her several times but didn't hit her. He reportedly then began speaking "nonsensically about gangs and drugs and refused to leave."

According to the police report, the woman then went and sat in her car, and Brown followed her and continued to rant about drugs and gangs. She then went back into her apartment, locked the door and called the police. Brown then began banging on her door with a snow shovel, the report states.

When the police arrived, Brown allegedly "demanded that he be placed in handcuffs because he thought he had a

warrant for his arrest."

Later, Brown began to yell and berate the officers, according to the report.

The woman told police she had no idea who Brown was and had had no prior contact with him. Brown reportedly told officers he knew the woman "intimately" and that he was checking her out.

In court Tuesday, Brown, who appeared in a jail jumpsuit, answered procedural questions and pleaded not guilty to the three charges against him.

Bond was set at \$1,500, though Assistant District Attorney Joshua Stenassas asked for a \$3,500 bond. Stenassas mentioned that Brown was intoxicated during the incident, though the police report doesn't mention drugs or alcohol except to state that Brown refused a blood-alcohol concentration test.

Reach Patrick Simonatis at 307-266-0574 or patrick.simonatis@trib.com. Follow him on Twitter: @patsimonatis.

Photos of failed ATM heist to be released

By PATRICK SIMONATIS
Star-Tribune staff writer

Law enforcement authorities are looking for a light-colored pickup truck following a failed ATM theft attempt Monday at an east side Casper bank.

Authorities say a silver or white truck backed into the First Interstate Bank's front glass entrance about 4:30 a.m. Monday, and an individual or individuals made an attempt to steal the ATM.

Officer Joe Nickerson with the Casper Police Department said there might be damage to the back of the truck.

He also said photos of the truck were expected to be released to the public today.

The damage was discovered by a customer, who contacted police. The shattered window at the bank near Eastridge Mall was temporarily boarded up Monday.

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WYOMING CALENDAR

Today's events

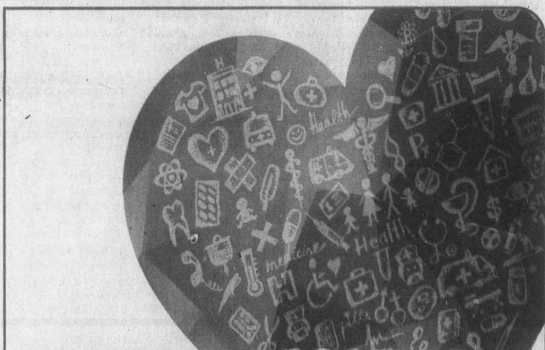
- Cheyenne Events**
- Through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wyoming Current Governor's Resident, 5001 Central Ave. Sits on one acre of bird habitat. Free. Info: 307-777-7398.
 - From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wyoming National Guard Museum is open. Located at 624 E. Pershing Blvd. Free admission. Info: 307-638-9481.
 - At 4 p.m., Egg Carton Insects at the Children's Village, 710 S. Lions Park Dr. \$1 per child. Info: 307-637-6349.
- Albany County Library**
- 310 S. Eighth St., Laramie. Info: 307-721-2580, www.albanycountylibrary.org.
 - Through Thursday at 10 a.m., Family Storytime.
 - At 3:30 p.m., Kids Lego Club.
- Sheridan County Library**
- Info: www.sheridanwylibrary.org.
 - At 10 & 10:30 a.m., Preschool Story Time at Fulmer Library.
 - At 3 p.m., Pre-School Story Time at Story Library.
 - At 4:30 p.m., board meeting at Fulmer Library.
- Laramie County Library**
- 2200 Pioneer Ave., Cheyenne. Info: 307-634-3561 or www.LCL.Sonline.org.
 - At 10:15 a.m., Tales Together in the Storytime Room; Stories on My Own in the Sage Room.
 - At 11 a.m., Storytime in the Storytime Room.
 - At 4:15 p.m., Chess Club for grades 3-8 on the 2nd Floor.
- UW Events**
- All across, "The Net So United States: Gay Marriage Litigation Across America," College of Law Building Room 170. Free.
 - Through Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. - BANFF Mountain Film Festival. Arts and Sciences auditorium. Free.

Ongoing Events

- Cheyenne Events**
- Through Feb. 28, Hem Lighted Forest of Hope at 6565 Ashley Dr. Best to view after dark. Hay and train rides most every night 6:30-8:30 p.m. Admission by donation. Hay rides free, train rides \$1. Info: 307-630-6631, www.hemforest.com.

Coming Up

- Albany County Library**
- 310 S. Eighth St., Laramie. Info: 307-721-2580, www.albanycountylibrary.org.
 - Thursdays, 11 a.m., Book Babies.
 - Thursdays, 3:45-5 p.m., VAK!
 - Feb. 20, 7 p.m., Muslim Journeys book discussion: Broken Verses.
 - Fridays, 12 p.m., Library After Hours: Zero Zone Yoga.
 - Tuesdays, 10 a.m., Book Babies.
 - Wed.-Thursdays, 10 a.m., Family Storytime.
 - Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m., Kids Lego Club.
- Sheridan County Library**
- Info: www.sheridanwylibrary.org.
 - Thursdays, 10 & 10:30 a.m., Toddler Story Time at Fulmer Library.
 - Feb. 20, 4:15 p.m., "Turtles" tween book talk club for ages 8-12 at Tongue River Library.
 - Feb. 20, 4:30 p.m., book discussion of "The Whip" by Karen Kondazian at Clearmont Library.
 - Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Claire Yorks Reading & Discussion Series: "Cocktail Hour Under the Tree of Forgetfulness" by Alexandra Fuller in the Inner Circle at Fulmer Library.



HEART MONTH

Did you know 1 in every 4 deaths in the U.S. is caused by heart disease?

Heart Attack: Call 911

Friday, February 21 • 12:30 p.m.

Natrona County Public Library, Crawford Room
307 E. 2nd St. • Drinks and snacks provided

Our trained responders can begin treatment before you arrive on your own. We will know you are coming and be ready to care for you, shaving valuable minutes off your treatment time.



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Adrian Fluturo, M.D.
Board Certified
Cardiologist

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