

Billings Gazette

A tradition of wrestling

Scottie Invitational is in Glasgow this weekend **SPORTS, PAGE C1**



Logging proposed in Bridgers

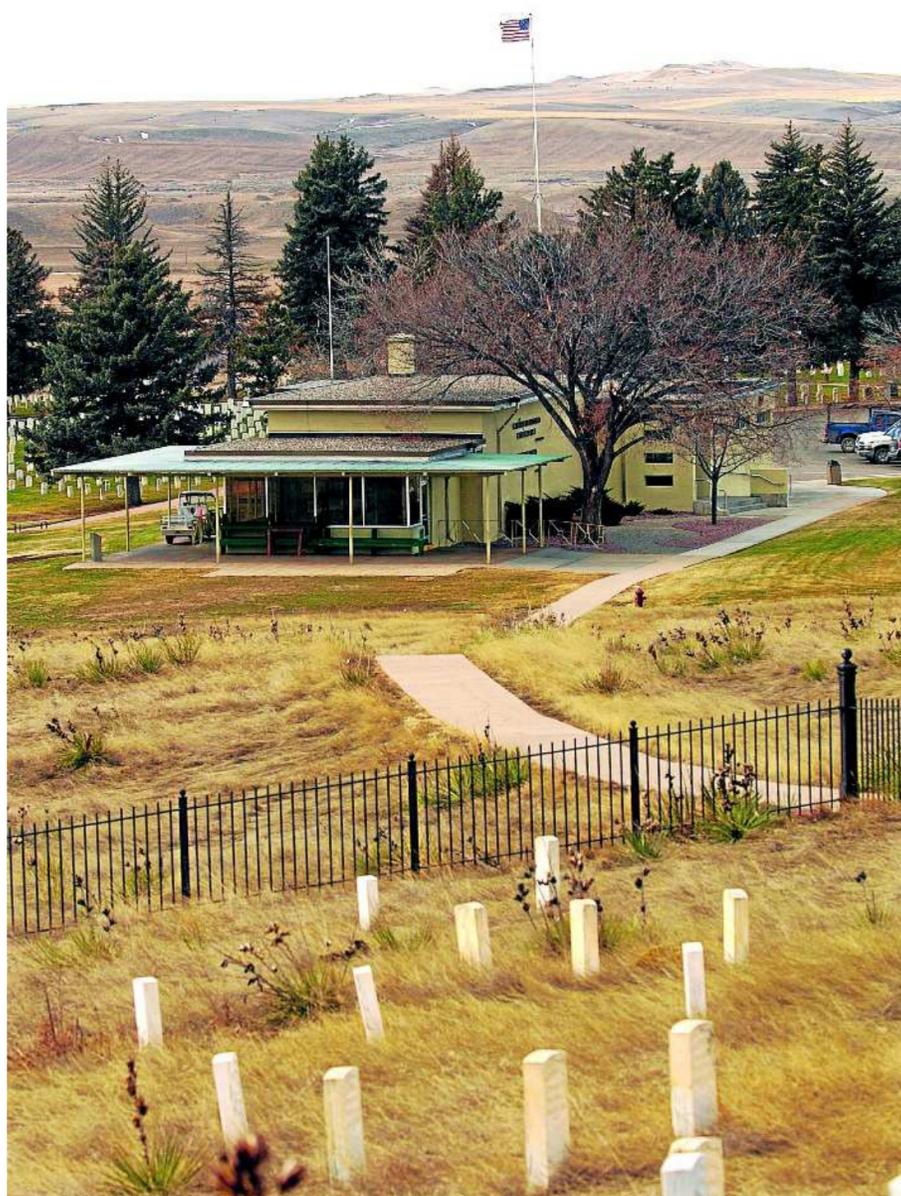
Land popular with recreationists **LOCAL & STATE, PAGE B1**



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LARRY MAVER, GAZETTE STAFF

The visitor center at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is a cinderblock building constructed in 1952. A National Park Service Environmental Assessment calls for construction of a new visitor center in the footprint of the existing one as well as the return of tens of thousands of battlefield artifacts.

Artifact repatriation at Little Bighorn Battlefield proposed

NPS also pitches new visitor center for site

MIKE FERGUSON
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A plan for the future of the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument includes the National Park Service's preference for building a new 10,600-square-foot visitor center on the footprint of the current center and bringing back some if not all of the tens of thousands of battlefield artifacts now being stored for safekeeping in Tucson, Arizona.

Park officials are accepting comments on the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment through Jan. 4, 2018. The only scheduled meeting on the EA will be held via a conference call from 2 p.m. through 4 p.m. Dec. 14. Phone 866-714-0783 and use participant code 4244998#.

"Right now we are in the information-gathering stage. We want to hear anything we may or may not be aware of," said Wayne Challoner, superintendent at the Little Bighorn Battlefield monument for the past month. "We

Little Bighorn plan

To view the Environmental Assessment or make a comment, visit www.parkplanning.nps.gov/libi.gmpa. Written comments can be sent to the National Park Service, Denver Service Center-Planning, Attn: Erin Flanagan, P.O. Box 25287, Denver, CO 80225-0287.

To view a paper copy of the plan, contact Ken Woody at 406-638-3216 or Ken.Woody@nps.gov.

are trying to see if we can go in and rebuild in the same footprint with a new and better-designed facility. Getting those artifacts back has always been the goal."

There's no construction timetable in the plan, and there's no guarantee that funding will be available.

"We want to make sure the public buys in on what we are trying to do," Challoner said.

According to the plan, the decision to move artifacts to the park service's Western Archaeological and Conservation Center in Tucson was "strongly opposed" by tribal members "who felt the move would disconnect their attachment to items of cul-

tural importance associated with the battlefield site. ... Restoring the trust relationship is essential to future park management and cooperation and consultation with the tribes and other stakeholders."

The NPS says it's committed to returning the collections to the monument "and providing secure on-site curatorial storage."

The preferred alternative would bring an end to the current summertime practice of up to 200 visitors at a time squeezing together to hear a ranger deliver a talk beneath a partial overhang outside the visitor center.

Rebuilding in the footprint of the existing visitor center would give visitors an "entry experience," which includes seeing key elements of the battlefield from the visitor center's windows and patios and creating a place-based context for their visit," the plan states.

Before the visitor center is demolished and rebuilt, an interim remodel of the current visitor center would provide for updated interim exhibits, including the removal and relocation of existing objects and new exhibit construction and installation.

Please see **LITTLE BIGHORN**, Page A6

GOP's McConnell: There will be no gov't shutdown

HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Testing the resolve of Democrats, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared Sunday there won't be a government shutdown this week over the question of protecting immigrants brought to the country illegally as children, describing it as a "non-emergency" to be addressed next year.



McConnell

"There's not going to be a government shutdown. It's just not going to happen," said McConnell, R-Ky.

House GOP leaders unveiled a short-term plan over the weekend to avert a shutdown and keep the government open through Dec. 22.

The measure would buy time for bipartisan talks on a bigger budget agreement that would give the Pentagon and government agencies significant relief from a pending budget freeze.

Congress faces a Friday deadline to fund the government through the end of next September.

Democrats and a few Republicans have suggested they may not vote for government funding without the protections for tens of thousands of young immigrants, known as "Dreamers," who are currently protected by an Obama administration pro-

gram. That program is set to expire in March.

Meanwhile, some Republicans are divided over what programs the government should pay for, and how much.

GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Florida has joined Democrats on the immigration issue, while Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said he received commitments from party leaders and the administration to work with him on restoring "Dreamer" protections in exchange for his vote early Saturday on the tax overhaul bill.

President Donald Trump backs the immigration safeguards despite issuing an executive order reversing the Obama-era protections, officially called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

Talks on a budget agreement are likely to restart this week after a setback last week when top Democrats pulled out of a meeting with Trump after he attacked them on Twitter.

On Sunday, McConnell insisted the GOP-controlled Congress will be able to keep the government running, calling the demand for action on DACA by year's end "ridiculous."

"I don't think the Democrats would be very smart to say they want to shut down the government over a non-emergency that we can address anytime between now and March," McConnell said. "There is no crisis."

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CARRIE ANTLFINGER, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamain Lee, center, looks at classmate Andre'veon Mosby on Oct. 20 at Milwaukee Math and Science Academy, a charter school in Milwaukee. Next to him is classmate Dreamnoel Haynes, with Brianna Williams facing them. Lee has seen his grades improve since he enrolled two years ago from a school where he was bullied and frequently got into fights.

Charter schools become increasingly segregated

IVAN MORENO, LARRY FENN AND MICHAEL MELIA
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Charter schools are among the nation's most segregated, an Associated Press analysis finds — an outcome at odds, critics say, with their goal of offering a better alternative to failing traditional public schools.

National enrollment data shows that charters are vastly over-represented among schools where minorities study in the most extreme racial isolation. As of school year 2014-2015, more than 1,000 of the nation's 6,747 charter schools had minority enrollment of at least 99 percent, and the number has been rising steadily.

The problem: Those levels of segregation correspond with low achievement levels at schools of all kinds.

In the AP analysis of student achievement in the 42 states that have enacted charter school laws, along with the District of Columbia, the performance of students in charter schools varies widely. But schools that enroll 99 percent minorities — both charters and traditional public schools — on average have fewer students reaching state standards for proficiency in reading and math.

"Desegregation works. Nothing else does," said Daniel Shulman, a Minnesota civil rights

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page A6



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