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# GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

# Best dads in the world



Readers of all ages share why their Father is great /Out & About, Page 4

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No. 36 — 122nd Year

SUNDAY

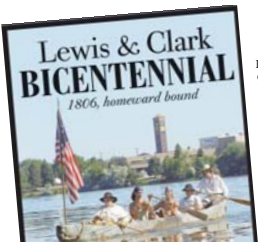
June 18, 2006

Great Falls, Montana — \$1.50

## The journey home tested the Corps' mettle

### Inside

For more on the Lewis and Clark expedition — and next week's festival at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center — see the special section in this issue of the Great Falls Tribune.



By ERIC NEUHOUSE  
Tribune Projects Editor

Two centuries ago today, the Lewis and Clark expedition was desperately hoping to find its way back to Montana en route to the Pacific Ocean.

Lost in the snowy Bitterroot Mountains, Capt. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark had sent two of their men back to plead for Indian guides.

"They were in deep snow, and I think they were motivated by hunger," said Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, author of the "Lewis and Clark Companion."

"I've broken trail in that area, and it's no fun. There's deadfall all over," she said. "It's incredible how hungry you get at the end of the day."

As a last-ditch measure, Lewis and Clark were willing to trade weapons for help, an unprecedented offer.

"We sent by them a rifle which we offered as a reward to any of them who would engage to conduct us to Traveller's Rest," wrote Lewis.

"We also directed them in if they found difficulty in inducing any of

See THE CORPS, 5A



AP PHOTO BY BOB ZELLAR, BILLINGS GAZETTE

Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., speaks to the Pachyderm Club breakfast in Billings on Saturday. At the state Republican Party convention here Saturday, Burns said that maintaining a Republican majority in Congress is critical.

Inside: Divining the state's ag future is an uncertain endeavor /4A

## Farmers look to adapt with innovation



TRIBUNE PHOTO BY ROBIN LOZNAK

Brady area farmer Chad Doheny is raising 15 acres of Camelina this year and has high hopes for the oilseed plant in the future. Switching to crops like camelina, which is well suited to a cool and dry climate, is one way Montana farmers are bracing for climate change.

By SONJIA LEE  
Tribune Staff Writer

Farmer Paul Kronebusch rotates some of his winter wheat with legumes in fields north of Conrad.

Near Brady, farmer Chad Doheny is trying another value-added option. He planted camelina, a drought resistant oil seed.

Both are growing another "crop" in their fields: carbon. Released into the air, carbon is a greenhouse gas that many scientists say contributes to global warming. Kept in the ground, it is not a problem. And, as Kronebusch and Doheny are learning, it's potentially profitable.

Farmers depend on the weather. Climate change, or potentially hotter and drier conditions, poses a threat, and Montana farmers are rethinking their practices. They are looking at new sources of income, new crops and other ways to adapt.

"I don't know how fast global warming is coming, but I think everyone should be thinking about it," Doheny said.

Years of drought are giving those in the agricultural industry a taste of what the future may hold, said John Antle, a Montana State University agricultural economist.

"That's not to say drought is climate change," he said. "But if we want to know what the climate might look like, look at the last seven or eight years."

With efforts building



The first story in this occasional series looked at the state's efforts to cope with climate change.

### Montana's action plan

Earlier this year Gov. Brian Schweitzer asked Montana's Department of Environmental Quality to form a Climate Change Advisory Group to study the impact of global warming in Montana. Schweitzer wants a Climate Change Action Plan by next year.

The group meets for the first time July 13 in Helena. The meeting, which is open to the public, is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Room 111 of the DEQ's Metcalf Building, 1520 E. 6th Ave.

## Burns: GOP must hold U.S. Senate

By GWEN FLORIO  
Tribune Capitol Bureau

BILLINGS — U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., spent nearly an hour Saturday telling Republicans why it's important to re-elect him in November, without ever once mentioning his opponent by name.

The closest he came to admitting the existence of Democrat Jon Tester, a Big Sandy farmer, was when it came to talking about his own role on the powerful Appropriations Committee in providing federal drought relief funds.

"I provided the money," Burns said. "He took the checks."

Burns and U.S. Rep. Denny Rehberg gave a breakfast talk at the state Republican Party convention here Saturday. Both spoke of the importance of maintaining a Republican majority in Congress.

"Do you want Ted Kennedy picking the next judges?" Burns asked. "...Do you want John Kerry to run defense? He couldn't even find the maybe button when it comes to vote. How 'bout Hillary Clinton running your health care systems?"

To the chorus of resounding "No's" he responded, "Then send me back to Washington."

Tester said Burns has been in Washington too long already.

"Sen. Burns has adopted Washington, D.C., values and lost touch with Montana values," he said.

While Rehberg's seat is seen as safe, Burns is



Tester



Rehberg

### Online coverage

Look for previous and ongoing coverage of the 2006 elections at www.greatfallstribune.com

## Shuttle to take flight July 1, despite warnings

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA managers on Saturday picked July 1 to launch the first space shuttle in almost a year, despite recommendations against a liftoff attempt by the space agency's chief engineer and safety offices.

The decision to launch Discovery on a trip to the international space station was made after two days of meetings by NASA's top managers and engineers at the Kennedy Space Center. The flight would be only the second shuttle mission since the Columbia disaster in 2003.

The crew should not be in any danger even if the potential problems develop, NASA Administrator Michael Griffin said. "That's what I do. Our staff offices ... have the right, have the obligation,

and as a last resort the astronauts could stay at the space station until a rescue shuttle arrives.

During a poll of top managers, representatives from NASA's Office of Safety and Mission Assurance and the Office of the Chief Engineer recommended against flying until further design changes are made to the external fuel tank. Despite their recommendations, the dissenting managers did not object to making a launch, NASA officials said.

The ultimate decision to fly was made by Griffin, who said he would shut down the space shuttle program if there was another vehicle loss like space shuttles Challenger and Columbia.

"The administrator ... has the obligation to decide," Griffin said. "That's what I do. Our staff offices ... have the right, have the obligation,



Griffin

### Are they right? Question details on 1M.

More space news  
www.greatfallstribune.com/space

have the utter necessity to tell us exactly what they think. But all of that is advice."

The most contentious debate focused on whether the shuttle's external tank should undergo further changes in 34 areas called ice-frost ramps. About 35 pounds of foam already have been removed from an area of the tank where a 1-pound piece fell off during last July's launch of Discovery. NASA described it as the biggest aerodynamic change ever made to the shuttle's launch system.

Representatives from NASA's safety and chief

engineer offices said at the meeting that the shuttle shouldn't fly until the ice-frost ramps are redesigned.

A large piece of flying foam from where the external tank connects to the shuttle, not the ice-frost ramps, struck a wing of Columbia during its launch in 2003, allowing fiery gases to enter the shuttle and kill the seven-member crew during descent.

The pieces that have come off the ice-frost ramps in the past have been small, and NASA plans to redesign the ice-frost ramps in the future so that they won't pose hazards, Griffin said. NASA leaders also have said the shuttle should fly with only one major modification to the tank at a time.

"I think it is acceptable for a number of reasons to go fly for a limited number of flights until we come up with a new design," said Wayne Hale, shuttle program manager.



Collectors can buy the proof coins directly from the Mint starting on Thursday by going to the Mint's Web site — www.usmint.gov — or by calling 1-800-USA-Mint. The site also will have a listing of local dealers who will be selling the coins.

## Golden buffalo set to roam again

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The golden buffalo, the legendary symbol of the American West, soon will roam again — this time as the nation's first pure-gold coin.

The U.S. Mint will start taking orders this week for the coins. Officials believe they have found a winning combination that will appeal to nostalgic buffs and investors.

The coin will be slightly larger and thicker than a Kennedy half-dollar, will contain 1 ounce of gold and will be designated a \$50 gold piece. The actual price will depend on the market price of an ounce of gold, plus markups, bringing the cost to several

hundred dollars apiece. The design is a replica of the popular buffalo nickel that was minted from 1913 to 1938. The golden buffalo has a buffalo standing on a grassy mound on one side and a stern-looking Indian chief on the other side, duplicating the images created by famed artist James Earle Fraser for the 1913 nickel.

"Many people will recall getting a nickel with the Indian head and the buffalo," the deputy director of the Mint, David Lebrink, said in an interview. "It is really a beautiful design and evokes wonderful images."

The buffalo without the Indian chief made a brief comeback on the nickel

See COIN, 5A

Today's Great Falls forecast  
High: 76° — Low: 48°  
Mostly sunny



Full weather report on BACK PAGE

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