



Stunning photos

The Tribune's annual photography contest winners announced /**Life**

New grocery

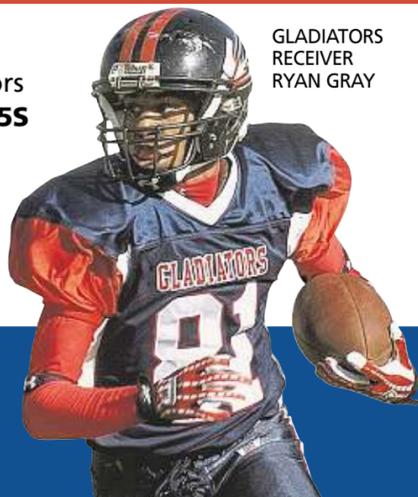
Browning store offers food, good prices and job opportunities /**1B**

Fighting back

Poplar women take self-defense lessons to feel safer near the Bakken oil boom /**1M**

Sports today

» Great Falls Gladiators have season opener /**5S**
 » CMR, GFH and UGF softball teams play in town /**1S**
 » Down on the Farm column /**1S**



GLADIATORS RECEIVER RYAN GRAY

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

A GANNETT COMPANY

Sunday, April 15, 2012

A PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER



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1984 KARI SWENSON KIDNAPPING



Don Nichols, right, stands with his son, Dan Nichols, left, as they pleaded not guilty in court in Virginia City on Dec. 18, 1984. Standing with them is attorney, Steve Ungar. Nichols, who abducted world-class biathlete Kari Swenson in 1984 to keep as a wife for his son, once wrote that blame for the "incident" lies with her and a would-be rescuer he shot and killed. Nichols will appear before the Montana Parole Board this month. AP PHOTO/FILE

'Mountain man' athlete abductor seeks parole

By **MATT GOURAS**
Associated Press

HELENA — A notorious "mountain man," who abducted a world-class athlete in 1984 to keep as a wife for his son, once wrote that blame for the "incident" lies with her and a would-be rescuer whom he shot and killed. Don Nichols undoubtedly will need to be more contrite later this month in front of the historically stern Montana Parole Board. Nichols gained interna-



Swenson

tional notoriety for the bizarre crime and prolonged manhunt in the wilderness northwest of Yellowstone National Park that ended when a sheriff stormed his camp. He is now a frail, 81-year-old convict with a weak chin whose 150 pounds stretch over a six-foot frame.

Nichols and his son, Dan Nichols, were known to spend long stretches in the mountains

See **MOUNTAIN MAN, 7A**



ABOVE: British Royal Navy Admiral Lord West casts a memorial wreath to victims of the Titanic disaster into the dock from where the ill-fated liner sailed 100 years ago in Southampton, England, on Tuesday. BELOW: A memorial wreath dedicated to the victims of the Titanic disaster. AP PHOTOS/CHRIS ISON

Many events mark Titanic centennial

By **LEFERIS PITARAKIS** and **JILL LAWLESS**
Associated Press



ABOARD MS BALMORAL — In the birthplace of the Titanic, residents gathered for a choral requiem. In the North Atlantic, above the ship's final resting place, passengers will pray as a band strikes up a hymn and three floral wreaths are cast onto the waves.

A century after the great ship went down with the loss of 1,500 lives, events around the globe are marking a tragedy that retains a titanic grip on the world's imagination — an icon of Edwardian luxury

that became, in a few dark hours 100 years ago, an enduring emblem of tragedy.

Helen Edwards, one of 1,309 passengers on memorial cruise aboard the liner Balmoral who have spent the past week steeped in the Titanic's history and symbolism, said Saturday that the story's

See **TITANIC, 7A**

Buffett Rule coming to head

Montana lawmakers take sides

By **MALIA RULON HERMAN**
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Should millionaires be required to pay

higher taxes? Montana's U.S. lawmakers are split over the issue, which is expected to be front and center in Washington, D.C., this week.

At issue is a concept pushed by President Barack Obama and other Democrats, called the Buffett Rule. Named for billionaire Warren Buffett, who said his secretary pays a higher tax rate than he does, the rule would require people making more than \$1 million a

year to be taxed at a rate of at least 30 percent.

The Senate is poised to vote as early as Monday on a bill authored by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., that would put the Buffett Rule into law. Under the bill, the minimum 30 percent effective tax rate for those making more than \$1 million would be phased in by levying a "Fair Share" tax for people who don't meet the 30 percent threshold. Deductions

for charitable giving would not be changed.

"Plain and simple, Montanans deserve an economy where everyone chips in their fair share and everyone plays by the same set of rules," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. "It's only fair to ask big-city millionaires and billionaires to pay the same amount of taxes on Wall Street investments

See **BUFFET RULE, 8A**

10 signs of Alzheimer's disease to look for /**4A** | The forms of Alzheimer's disease /**5A**

Alzheimer's  Disease

Growing dementia crisis looms



ABOVE: Dolores "Dodi" Kelley, 73, who has Alzheimer's, looks out the window. Kelley lives with her son and daughter-in-law, Ken and Alicia Thompson. BELOW: Larry and Janette LeMasters hold hands. The couple will celebrate their 53rd wedding anniversary in June. TRIBUNE PHOTOS/LARRY BECKNER

Aging boomers strain families and budgets

By **AMIE THOMPSON**
Tribune Staff Writer

Dolores Kelley's dreams wreak havoc with her reality, and oftentimes she can't recall the present for more than a few minutes.

But don't for a second feel sorry for her.

"It's life," she said, sitting at her son's kitchen table earlier this month in Great Falls. "Life isn't always what you want — it's what you get."

For the greater part of her 73 years, she took care of family members and friends in need. Now, saddled with not only memory issues, but also diabetes and cancer, Dodi, as she likes to be called, needs around-the-clock supervision.

COMING MONDAY
Great Falls experts work to unlock Alzheimer's secrets

She is one of more than 21,000 Montanans suffering with Alzheimer's, a degenerative brain disease that has no cure. It is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth-leading cause of death for Americans age 65 and older.

"With the baby boomers population aging, we are expecting it to climb to 29,000 in Montana by 2025," said Suzanne Belser, executive officer of Alzheimer's Association Montana.

The youngest baby boomers will reach age 65 by 2029, likely ballooning the number of Alzheimer's patients,



See **ALZHEIMER'S, 4A**

which will have a profound effect on government budgets and individual pocketbooks. Alzheimer's is the only cause of death among the top 10 in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.

Because Dodi cared for her grandmother, who was diagnosed with dementia, and mother, who had Alzheimer's disease, she knows first-

NEED HELP?

- » **Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Help Line:** 1-800-272-3900
- » **Website:** Alz.org has the most comprehensive information on Alzheimer's.
- » **Medicaid Waiver Program:** In Great Falls and the Golden Triangle area, contact Benefis Spectrum at 455-2660.

GREAT FALLS MONTANA FORECAST



High: **38°** — Low: **29°**
Periods of light snow and wind gusts up to 20 mph

Full report on back page

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CLASS ACT

Winners of the Tribune's annual photography contest and a debate about Trayvon Martin's killing /**Coming Monday**

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