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Montana's newspaper

# Benchmark tries to allay Clancy fears

Group home operator plans to transition clients

PHIL DRAKE PDRAKE@GREATFALLSTRIBUNE.COM

HELENA — Benchmark Human Services responded Friday to complaints from people living in a Clancy residential development about plans to place clients from the Montana

Developmental Center into their neighborhood, saying it has a long history of transitioning people from state facilities to community living.

"Founded in 1960, our mission is to help people with disabilities live as independently as possible, be included in their community,

and function at their maximum potential," Benchmark said in a prepared statement. "We are committed to working with the state of Montana, individuals served, and their families and guardians to help people safely and successfully transition from MDC to the community."

The statement comes a day after residents from Forest Park Estates told the MDC Transition Advisory Council they were alarmed

that Benchmark had bought a home on Beaver Lane and planned to move MDC clients in.

The panel has been meeting since June 2015 to come up with a plan for closing the facility. Gov. Steve Bullock signed Senate Bill 411 to close MDC in Boulder and move most of the 53 people with severe intellectual disabilities, mental health issues and personality dis-

See BENCHMARK, 3A

UNITED KINGDOM EXITS EUROPEAN UNION

# VOTE JOLTS CONTINENT



## Cameron resigns as UK embarks on historical separation

JANE ONYANGA-OMARA AND KIM HJELMGAARD USA TODAY

LONDON - The United Kingdom voted to end 43 years of European Union membership after a divisive referendum campaign that prompted Prime Minister David Cameron to announce he would resign.

The vote sent global markets crashing Friday over the potential dismantling of a union designed to ensure peace and security for a continent ravaged by two world wars.

The margin of victory was 52 percent to 48 percent. Cameron, who had campaigned to remain in the 28-member EU, resigned shortly after the final result from Thurs-

See UK VOTE, 3A



Above: Prime Minister David Cameron resigns Friday after British voters opted to leave the European Union. Top: Nigel Farage, the UK Independence Party leader, celebrates with his supporters.

## US stocks hammered as 'Brexit' vote sends global markets falling

NATHAN BOMEY AND MATT KRANTZ USA TODAY

The U.S. stock market suffered its worst drop in 10 months Friday as shock over the United Kingdom voters' move to exit the European Union and Prime Minister David Cameron's subsequent resignation announcement sent global markets into a tailspin.

Amid swirling uncertainty over the impact of the "Brexit," the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 611 points, or 3.4 percent, to close at 17,400. The Standard & Poor's 500 fell 3.6 percent. The losses dropped both stock measures back into negative territory

See MARKETS, 3A

# Gubernatorial hopefuls to tussle Sunday in first debate

PHIL DRAKE PDRAKE@GREATFALLSTRIBUNE.COM

For the first time this election season, the front-runners from the two major parties in the gubernatorial race will face off Sunday at the Montana Broadcasters Association convention in Big Sky.

Democratic incumbent Gov. Steve Bullock

and Republican challenger Greg Gianforte will debate at 9 a.m.

So what kind of political sway can be expected from the battle royale under the Big Sky?

"In general debates are not significant in terms of convincing voters to change their votes," said Jeremy Johnson, associate political science professor at Carroll College. "This

is true in Montana and nationwide."

But ...

"There are exceptions such as when candidates make a big mistake by saying something really shocking or else a candidate comes across as foolish at an inopportune moment," Johnson said. "In most cases, however, 'winning' a debate does not necessarily translate into winning an election."

The moderator Ron Davis, who is chairman of the MBA board, will be joined by broadcast journalists Becky Hillier, Jay Kohn and Julie Weindel.

Here are some options for debate coverage: The Great Falls Tribune will post stories at gftrib.com. On the radio, the debate will be

See DEBATE, 3A

GREAT FALLS FORECAST

High: 73 - Low: 44  
Clouds breaking and windy. Winds west 15-25 mph.



Full report on back page

Dow Jones Industrials	-610.32
	17,400.75
Nasdaq composite	-202.06
	4,707.98
Standard & Poor's 500	-75.91
	2,037.41

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OUT AT THE BALL GAME

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