

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday May 1, 2013



While the weather may not agree, it looks like summer traffic.



True words... (photos by Amy Bartlett)

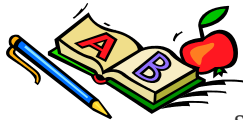
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In this issue: Meet the Mediterranean Plate; Asthma Decoded; Go Row; Cooking without Oil?.

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Gardiner, Montana

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The circus-themed evening kicks off at 6 p.m. with cocktails and global food, a magician and performing animals, live music by [Cindy Hicks](#) and a Silent Auction in the Big Top Tent closing at 7:30 p.m..

The Center Ring opens at 7 pm for a multi-course ethnic dinner with complementary regional wines and beer, the Lucky Dog Raffle and the Ringmaster's Live Auction begins at 8 p.m.

New! Premium Reserved seating for \$100 this year while unreserved seating remains only \$65 before May 1, and \$75 after. Don't miss the Luxury Raffle – only one hundred \$50 tickets sold (need not be present to win) and the winner chooses any auction item. Auction items include a private dinner with Jack Horner, a lavish wine collection, autographed Willie Mays photo, a cruiser bicycle from Timber Trails, Fine Custom Rustics wood bed, chest by Jamie Schwarz of Top Shelf Cabinetry, guitar signed by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Elichai sapphire pendant, original painting by Signature Artist Janie Camp, Frosty Fun Package at Yellowstone National Park, local adventure trips, lots of art, pet services and supplies and much, much more!

Mark **May 17** on your calendar, buy tickets online, call 222-1313 or email shelterbark@imt.net to learn more. **Join us for Big Fun under the Big Top!**

IN THE PRESS

Yellowstone ornithologist to give talk

18 hours ago • By Brett French

Yellowstone National Park ornithologist Lisa Baril will give a free talk at 12:15 p.m. Thursday at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center's Coe Auditorium in Cody, Wyo.

Baril will talk about the implications of cutthroat trout declines on breeding ospreys and bald eagles at Yellowstone Lake. The talk is part of the Draper Museum of Natural History's Lunchtime Expeditions Series 2013.

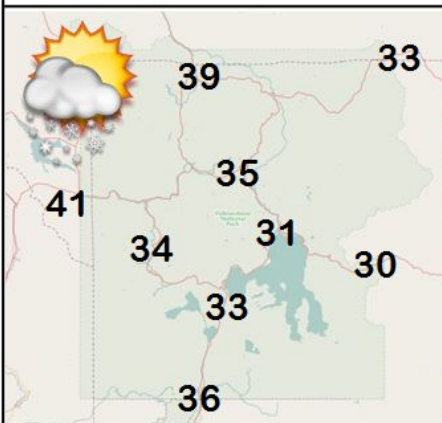
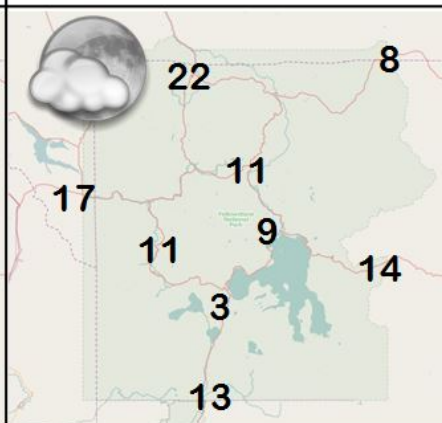
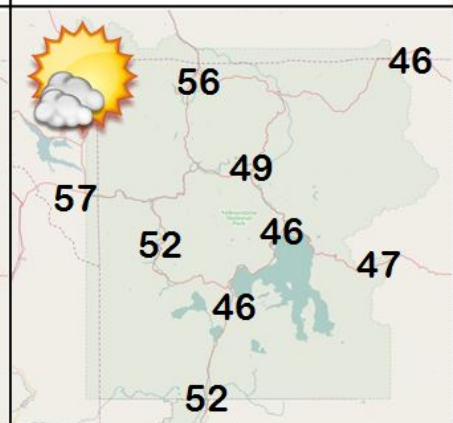
The introduction of lake trout to Yellowstone Lake has resulted in dramatic declines in native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Ospreys and bald eagles, along with 40 other species of birds and mammals, are partially or entirely dependent on cutthroat trout from spring through autumn.

Baril began her career as an ornithologist in 2000 banding songbirds in Yosemite National Park. After completing her degree in 2009, Baril began working for the Yellowstone Bird Program where she focused on peregrine falcon, trumpeter swan and bald eagle monitoring.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/yellowstone-ornithologist-to-give-talk/article_73b17c1d-4333-557c-a60c-602494ebee52.html#ixzz2S3Zjoyxv

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY
Partly to mostly cloudy. Snow likely early in the morning...then chance of snow until through late afternoon. Light daytime snow accumulations of up to 1 inch.	Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing.	Mostly sunny and warmer.
		
Thursday Night: Not as cold. Mostly clear. Lows 19 to 34. Friday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 45 to 60. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain showers and slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 23 to 35. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning... Then slight chance of rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 41 to 53. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.		
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INSTALLING SPRING



Installation failed
Error 404: Spring not found
Spring is not available in your state
Please try Florida

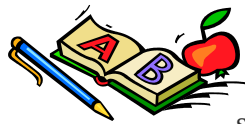
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Mammoth Community Center, Tuesday, May 7th at 6pm

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The MCC will provide all the ice cream and chocolate syrup, but please bring **ONE** yummy topping to share **and ONE** of the following foods for the potluck dinner that fall under the letter of your last name.

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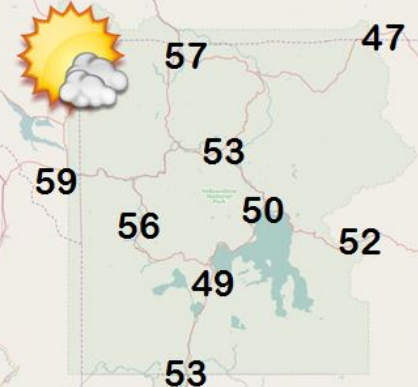
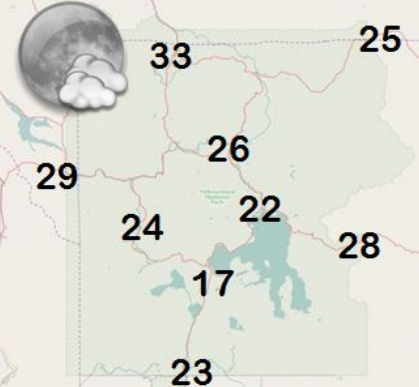
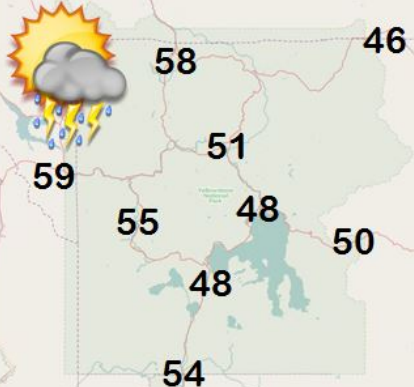
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Ouch! A visitor apparently driving too fast decided he'd try and get a closer look at the Upper Terrace near Mammoth yesterday evening. Luckily, the driver was uninjured and miraculously the vehicle sustained very little damage. His pride, however, surely needed a little TLC. Be on the lookout folks! The season is upon us!
(Al Nash, Photo)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The park's **East Entrance** opened to visitors today at 8:00 a.m.

ATF Offers \$5,000 Reward in Explosives Theft

RED LODGE, MONT. – The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Carbon County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) are requesting the public's assistance in information regarding the recent theft of approximately 559 pounds of high explosives from a USFS explosives bunker located near Red Lodge.

In April 2013 unknown person(s) used forced entry to access an explosives storage facility owned and operated by the U. S. Forest Service. The storage facility is located approximately two miles south of the City of Red Lodge. The following items were stolen from the storage facility:

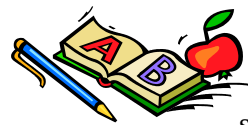
- Various emulsion-type explosives

- Explosive cast boosters
- Detonating Cord

“The theft of explosives is a top investigative priority for ATF”, said Ken Bray, Resident Agent in Charge of ATF in Montana. “We are asking for the public’s help in our effort to apprehend and convict those responsible. We are confident that someone can help identify a suspect and we encourage them to call us.”

A reward of up to \$5,000 is being offered to anyone who provides information that leads to the recovery of the explosives and to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the theft. Stealing explosives and possession of stolen explosives is a federal crime that is punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call the ATF hotline at 1-888-ATFBOMB (1-888-283-2662), or locally in Billings at 406-657-9700. They can also call the Carbon County Sheriff’s Office at 406-446-1234.



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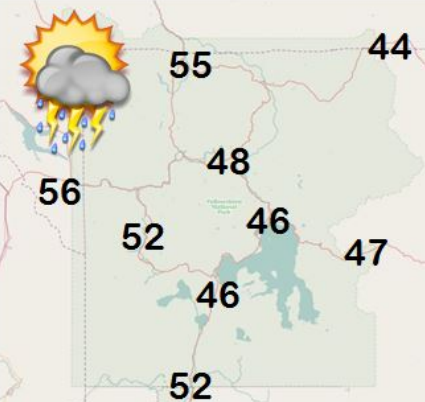
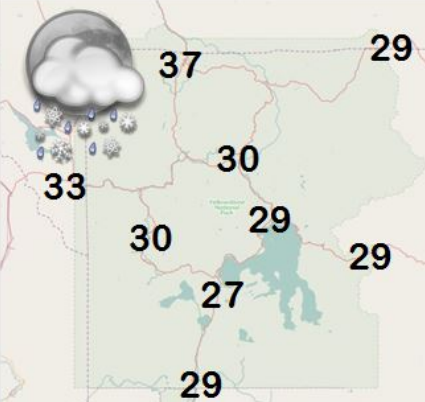
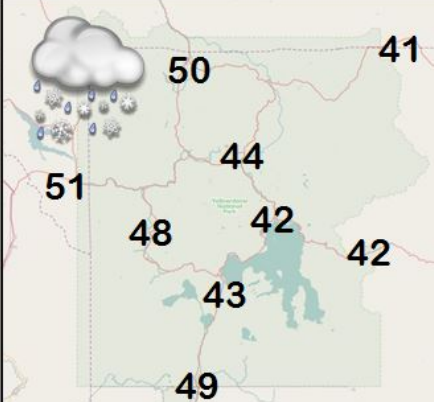
The Center Ring opens at 7 pm for a multi-course ethnic dinner with complementary regional wines and beer, the Lucky Dog Raffle and the Ringmaster's Live Auction begins at 8 p.m.

New! Premium Reserved seating for \$100 this year while unreserved seating remains only \$65 before May 1, and \$75 after. Don't miss the Luxury Raffle – only one hundred \$50 tickets sold (need not be present to win) and the winner chooses any auction item. Auction items include a private dinner with Jack Horner, a lavish wine collection, autographed Willie Mays photo, a cruiser bicycle from Timber Trails, Fine Custom Rustics wood bed, chest by Jamie Schwarz of Top Shelf Cabinetry, guitar signed by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Elichai sapphire pendant, original painting by Signature Artist Janie Camp, Frosty Fun Package at Yellowstone National Park, local adventure trips, lots of art, pet services and supplies and much, much more!

Mark **May 17** on your calendar, buy tickets online, call 222-1313 or email shelterbark@imt.net to learn more. **Join us for Big Fun under the Big Top!**

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and slight chance of thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain in the evening, with a chance of snow in the late evening and overnight. Little or no accumulation, except for Cooke City where 2 inches of new snow are possible. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.	Cloudy. Chance of snow and slight chance of rain in the morning...then chance of rain in the afternoon. North-east winds around 15. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.
		
Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain and snow in the evening. Lows 20 to 31. Sunday: Not as cool. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 49 to 60. Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 24 to 37. Monday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 52 to 63.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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Back issues of the newsletter are available at <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues>

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday May 6, 2013



Dennis Lenzendorf opens the East Entrance on Friday. (photo by Liz Quall)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ice Cream Social & Community Potluck

Mammoth Community Center, Tuesday, May 7th at 6pm

Come for a potluck dinner followed by an ice cream social hosted by the MCC in Lower Mammoth! Everyone is welcome at this free family event.

The MCC will provide all the ice cream and chocolate syrup, but please bring **ONE** yummy topping to share **and ONE** of the following foods for the potluck dinner that fall under the letter of your last name.

A-J Main Dish (feeds 5—8 people or more)

K-T Side Dish**U-Z Beverage ***and don't forget a topping too!**

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Pack your bag! TODAY's Great American Adventure starts May 20

The anchors are packing their bags!

For the first time in TODAY history, all five anchors — Matt, Savannah, Natalie, Al and Willie — are traveling together. They'll dip their toes in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans — and more — on TODAY's Great American Adventure.

Starting Monday, May 20, the TODAY team will visit five great U.S. destinations in a single week. Follow in the fun on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag [#TODAYAdventure](#).

They'll soak up the sun, sand and surf in Hawaii on Monday. And trade in the ocean for canyons and cliffs on Tuesday when they hike, fish and camp in the country's first national park: Yellowstone. They'll explore Chicago on Wednesday, discovering everything America's Second City has to offer.

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✓**Have you checked your fire extinguisher lately?**

Hello all YNP residents! When was the last time you took a look at the fire extinguisher provided in you park residence? This is just a friendly reminder from Mark Gleason of the Yellowstone Fire Department to:

- ✓ locate your fire extinguisher,
- ✓ make sure it's hung/mounted on the wall in an accessible place, and
- ✓ to inspect it monthly.

If you need any assistance with an extinguisher in your residence please contact a Yellowstone NP Fire Department Office and we will do our best to help you.

Annual Fire Extinguisher Training

Hey YNP employees, it's time to kick off spring training with some *hands-on* fire extinguisher training! Learn:

- about the different types of extinguishers,
- how to select the right extinguisher for the job, and
- how to safely operate the extinguishers you find in the work place or in your home, to put out an incipient stage fire.

Weekly trainings will be held at both the Lake and Canyon Fire Stations.

We also have the ability to provide mobile training for employees at the Norris and East Entrances.

**** Please contact Mark Gleason 307 344-7135 for times and locations. ****

(An alternative for anyone is to use the DOI Learn for your annual certification. DOI Learn course can be found by a course catalog search for NPS Annual Fire Extinguisher Education.)

The Complete Yellowstone

May 24—28 \$715, NPS Employee cost \$357.50!

Gardiner, Montana

Jim Garry, M.S. and Brad Bulin, M.S.

Teaching and interpreting the complex Yellowstone ecosystem requires a deep understanding of the area's formative geology, intricate thermal activity, interplay of plants and animals, and cultural history and interpretations. This course is designed to be a content-specific training for those interested in interpreting the resources of Yellowstone National Park for others to enjoy. You will explore the park during field-based experiences while enhancing your learning through a variety of guest lecturers who are resources experts within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Wilderness First Aid (through NOLS-WMI)**May 21-22 \$250, NPS Employee cost \$125!**

Do you spend a lot of time in the outdoors? Have you ever wondered how you would respond to a backcountry emergency? This 16-hour certification course is ideal for hikers, skiers, and outdoor professionals who want to learn the basics of emergency care in remote settings. You'll learn patient assessment, shock, wilderness wounds, fractures and dislocations, hypothermia, heat illness, altitude illness, and bites and stings. May be used to re-certify as a Wilderness First Responder. No previous certification is required.

IN THE PRESS**Book provides insight to early vacation in Yellowstone**

9 hours ago • By Brett French

Imagine as you drive to Yellowstone National Park to vacation this summer that you have passed through a time warp and traveled back in time to the early 1900s.

Instead of riding in a fast-moving automobile with air conditioning and many options for hotels, gas and restaurants, you're driving a mule-pulled covered wagon and camping out. You have become a "sagebrush tourist."

That was the term given to the do-it-yourselfers in the early days of Yellowstone tourism, the folks who didn't arrive by railroad and who didn't contract with a stagecoach or outfitter to see the park.

Blanche Nichols Russell, the grandmother of Billings resident Jim Russell, provided insight into this era in a book that includes excerpts from several Yellowstone trips. The book, "Memoirs of a Pioneer Schoolma'am, Reminiscent and Anecdotal Accounts of Travels and Western Nebraska History," was published in 1948 by the Courier Press in Gering, Neb. The book was organized by Russell's daughters to "perpetuate these stories of pioneer life as mother knew it."

Jim was 11 years old when his grandmother died, and he remembers little about the pioneer schoolmarm. He said his father did continue taking trips with his family to Yellowstone, shooing bears away from the picnic tables with a branch during 1950s trips.

'Camper outer'

Jim and several of his relatives own the few copies of the book that were printed. He even has one of the original journals — a brown, narrow book that resembles a ledger — in which his grandmother, the former schoolteacher, took neat notes in pencil along the way.

Jim's father, Warren Russell, was 9 when the family made the first long trip in 1908 from Mitchell, Neb., across Wyoming and through Yellowstone National Park — a distance of about 500 miles one way.

Jim's grandfather, Henry Russell, was often referred to as Chief or the Old Scout by Blanche in the stories, while she often called herself the Cook. Their daughter, Ruth, who was 5 at the time, also accompanied them on the first lengthy outing.

"I think I am the original 'camper outer,'" Blanche wrote at the beginning of the chapter titled the "Pioneer Vacation" — the account of their first visit to Yellowstone. They spent 20 days touring the park, not counting the time it took to drive from Nebraska and back.

“It took a lot of strenuous work for the head of the family to prepare our equipment,” she wrote. “Our bed was built in the bed of the wagon. We had a 30-gallon keg securely placed on a shelf on the side of the wagon box for we knew we would pass through much country in Wyoming where there would be no water, or it would be so strong with alkali that we could not use it.

“One of my most important cooking utensils was a large dutch oven and in it I baked light bread, biscuits, pie and cake, as well as grouse, rabbit and fish.”

While crossing Wyoming’s drier regions, Blanche noted the residents and travelers had to use water from ditches and streams because there were no wells.

“In Burlington the city used water from the lateral that the stock drank from and the children waded in. We developed stomachs like camels and did not drink anything but tea or coffee for days.”

Wild diet

The Russells’ vacation menu included such exotic items as a dinner of bull snake and currants, raspberries, strawberries and jackrabbits. The jackrabbits were tallied, in addition to the number of shots fired to kill them, along the way. Upon arrival in Yellowstone National Park, their diet switched to include freshly caught trout.

As Jim Russell noted of the campers’ visit to Yellowstone the second time, “All they did was catch and eat fish.”

The clan’s second journey into Yellowstone, which began June 21, 1910, is told in a more detailed account. It was a nearly two-month outing, with the family arriving back in Nebraska around mid-August.

They weren’t using fancy fishing poles to catch their meals — simply a willow branch with a line and hook tied on. Grasshoppers were the bait of choice. While camping at the mouth of Panther Creek, between Mammoth Hot Springs and Norris, they caught 42 trout in the first afternoon. The next day the father and son caught 99 fish almost equally between the two of them.

“This was surely a little spot of paradise and we stayed here two days and nights,” Blanche wrote. “Mr. James (a travelling companion) caught 77 fish at one catch.”

If the fish weren’t eaten right away, they were salted and saved for later, since there was no refrigeration.

While the men were off fishing, the women did a “big washing and baked two fruit cakes.”

Adventure travel

Blanche’s comments provide insight into a Yellowstone markedly different for today’s tourists, yet similar in some respects.

The family camped at Panther Creek after finding the camp at Mammoth “the poorest camp provided for the benefit of parties with their own equipment,” Blanche wrote. “The transportation outfits have all the benefits and all the laws are made in favor of them. They try to discourage parties with their own camping outfits.”

Black bears were frequent visitors to campgrounds during the Russells’ early visits. To scare the bears off, they would sometimes tend a campfire or light a gas lantern.

“Some meat fryings had upset in the commissary department of our wagon and I believe the bears could smell it a quarter of a mile,” Blanche wrote. “They would rear up on the back wheel and give it a jerk that would jolt the wagon. About that time I would yell. Most of the time at night there was a commotion in the camps. The geysers, which are the marvel of the park, had to take a back seat for the bears.”

Blanche often wrote of the odd comments made by fellow visitors, including one woman who said “the park superintendent was very reckless to turn the bears loose. She thought they should all be kept chained up in cages.” Another thought she could find the engine powering the geysers and hot springs if she looked behind the buildings.

Motoring

By 1919, the Russell family had graduated to an automobile for their trip to Yellowstone. The roads, even in mid-July, were questionable as flash floods tore out bridges, forcing a detour. While trying to cross timbers over one muddy route, a log reared up and got stuck under the car. Luckily, another came along to pull them out.

There’s no description of what kind of automobile the Russells drove, although Blanche refers to the car as Maude — the same name of one of their mules that made the previous trips. Mechanical breakdowns were common. Brake linings were the first to go, then a connecting rod burned out, but a passer-by had a spare one and repaired the car on the roadside. There also were fender benders and the occasional crash, not so unlike today’s busy park roadways.

The Russells’ first automobile trip was made the year after World War I ended, but one of Blanche’s notations seems to allude to the fact that war fears were still pervasive.

“I forgot to mention that we did not see a guard or armed man around the Shoshoni dam (near Cody, Wyo.), and if we had been German spies, we could have wrecked the dam without interference,” she wrote.

By 1942, automobiles were more reliable, but the latest women’s fashions were of concern. “Several ladies in shorts with marvelously beautiful legs are almost too much for the Old Scout. The Cook keeps a watchful eye on him so he won’t drive off into the lake or off the road when they appear on the highway,” Blanche wrote.

Stepping back through the time warp, it seems the modes of transportation have changed the most dramatically for Yellowstone visitors over the years. And people, although much the same in many ways, have come to expect more services — everything from fine dining to paved roads and interpretive museums.

But if Blanche Russell revisited Yellowstone today, she’d still recognize the park’s spectacular features, the nature and wildlife that first lured the scrappy 37-year-old pioneer woman to the nation’s original national park.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/book-provides-insight-to-early-vacation-in-yellowstone/article_0659fd76-465c-5d42-a261-6ce6a48b060e.html#ixzz2SWi86FOy

UM group set for last summer studying Yellowstone Lake's prehistoric campsites

10 hours ago • By Martin Kidston Missoulian

MISSOULA — Proteins found on ancient stone tools recovered from the shores of Yellowstone Lake tell of great bear, deer and rabbit hunts. But researchers have found no signs of boat making – no bone hooks to indicate that paleo-Indians came to the water to fish.

An archaeology team from the University of Montana will return to the shores of Yellowstone Lake again this summer to wrap up a five-year survey on the lake's prehistoric shoreline campsites.

Native Americans have traveled to the site for thousands of years and researchers want to know what attracted them to Yellowstone Lake. Did fishing play a part in their summer visits? Or were they only passing through to collect obsidian from the park's rich volcanic cliffs?

"The main goal of the project is to record and evaluate the importance of all the archaeological sites around the lake," said Doug MacDonald. "I'm trying to figure out what Native American hunter-gatherers were doing there, why they were going up there so frequently and using the lake so much from all directions."

MacDonald, an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology, has identified 285 prehistoric campsites around Yellowstone Lake. Funded by the National Park Service and aided by students, he spent the first two years documenting paleo-sites south of Gardiner and the last five years at water's edge.

But what brought paleo-Indians to the shores of Yellowstone Lake remains a mystery to researchers. The team has documented lakeshore campsites dating back 9,400 years, and while early speculation suggested they may have come to fish, evidence shows no signs of boat making or fishing.

"Our data doesn't show any signs of boat making or fishing, so the question is, how long have fish been there," MacDonald said. "We don't even know when cutthroat trout got to the lake. It's an important research question for me."

When European Americans arrived to map Yellowstone Park, they documented a hearty population of cutthroat trout in the lake and surrounding creeks. But it's unknown how long the fish had been there prior to their arrival.

In his university office, MacDonald stepped to a map on the wall and located the Two Ocean Plateau south of Yellowstone Lake in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. It's here, he believes, that cutthroat trout likely found their way to the lake, migrating up from the Snake River to the south.

"There's a creek there that flows in both directions," he said, naming Pacific and Atlantic creeks, which part when flowing off the Continental Divide. "Next summer, we'll do a geomorphologic study to determine landform age. It's going to be complicated getting back there."

The creek's crest over the Two Ocean Plateau sits roughly 14 miles from the nearest trailhead in Yellowstone's most remote corner. UM scientists will study the stratification of dirt and conduct radio carbon dating to determine the creek's age.

Knowing when the creek formed could help determine when it became a viable passage for fish. That could help determine when cutthroat entered the lake, and whether paleo-Indians had the opportunity to fish for the native species.

"All these sorts of basic questions we don't know the answer to, but they're interesting to the public," MacDonald said. "Everyone's sort of shocked that fishing wasn't that popular, or at least it doesn't seem to be, based on the archeological record."

It's hard to associate prehistoric Indians with contemporary tribes. But in more recent times, MacDonald said, the Shoshone, Crow, Blackfeet and Nez Perce were frequent visitors to Yellowstone Lake.

Camp sites surrounding the lake date back 9,400 years. Speer points chiseled from obsidian have been recovered during shoreline digs, along with arrowheads dating back 1,500 years — a tool MacDonald described as a strong chronological marker.

“Yellowstone is the perfect place to do this, because the obsidian is very easy to source,” MacDonald said. “Every volcanic obsidian flow has a unique chemical signature. We can trace exactly where people were coming from and what stone they were using.”

MacDonald described Obsidian Cliff — located in the park’s northern reaches — as one of the most important stone sources in the country. Indian sites in Maine dating back 2,000 years have revealed stone from the Yellowstone cliff. Hundreds of pounds of obsidian from the park have been recovered from sites in Ohio.

“We know the Clovis folks were going to Obsidian Cliff around 11,000 years ago,” MacDonald said. “But the park probably wasn’t a good place to be right after the glaciers retreated after Ice Age. We’re trying to find out if people were at the lake earlier than 9,400 years ago.”

While campsites surround the lake, most of the artifacts recovered by the team thus far have turned up on the lake’s northern shore; areas near the mouth of the Yellowstone River and in the area of the Fishing Bridge.

The campsites around the shoreline are scattered and considered low density, MacDonald said. It fits the pattern expected of campsites used by hunter-gatherers en route to another location.

“They were pretty much moving through the area and not establishing villages,” he said. “It’s short term camps — going to the lake and getting resources. We’re finding fire features where they’d hang out for a night or two before moving on.”

Speer points also have been recovered from the lake’s islands. But the water is too cold and the islands too far from shore to reach by swimming.

Many speculated that paleo-Indians used boats to reach the islands, but MacDonald believes early people may have arrived in the spring before the ice retreated and walked to the islands.

“I really suspect fishing would have been a fallback strategy for them,” MacDonald said. “The area is so rich in bison, elk, deer, bear and plants like bitterroot and camas that they wouldn’t have needed to fish.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/um-group-set-for-last-summer-studying-yellowstone-lake-s/article_b0e37117-1816-5526-9386-7e409acdae6a.html#ixzz2SWilCRyX

UM professor studies life-giving enzyme that thrives in Yellowstone Park spring

May 04, 2013 9:00 am • By Martin Kidston Missoulain

MISSOULA — When visitors to Yellowstone National Park stare in wonder across Grand Prismatic Spring and marvel at the colorful pool, chances are good they’re not thinking about the web of life thriving beyond the boardwalk.

At the pool’s emerald blue center, where temperatures reach a scalding 199 degrees, what little life exists depends on the energy stored in inorganic compounds, such as hydrogen.

Yet in the same pool, where temperatures cool to 163 degrees, life has adapted to carry out the basic functions responsible for life on Earth, never mind the pool's extreme environment.

And that has the University of Montana's Scott Miller interested.

"Our lab is interested in understanding the origins and distribution of biologic diversity along environmental gradients," said Miller, an associate professor in the Division of Biological Sciences. "There's a major transition of life here, from a community built on inorganic compounds to one built on sunlight, or photosynthesis, which we're more familiar with."

Joined by associate professor Michele McGuirl and research assistant Darla Carvey, Miller recently published the results of his five-year study, one that carries a name as complex as the work behind it.

Dubbed "The Evolution of RuBisCO Stability at the Thermal Limit of Photoautotrophy," the research seeks to answer a long-held scientific question: How did this life-giving enzyme – shortened to RuBisCO – and the organism that makes it come to thrive at extreme temperatures when its relatives cannot?

"These bacteria make a living using the exact same cellular machinery that plants use," said Miller. "It's just a very extreme example of it. It has relatives that live at lower temperatures, so we're trying to understand how it is these guys have been able to adapt to these very high temperatures."

Miller pulls up an aerial view of Grand Prismatic Spring, one of Yellowstone's more exotic wonders. The transition of color is striking, but it's not accidental, and it's the patina-color ring around the pool's perimeter that has the professor interested.

Like other thermal features within the park, the ring of color represents the zone where life in this mini-habitat shifts from microbes that dine on hydrogen to cyanobacteria, or blue-green algae, that thrive on photosynthesis.

The kicker, Miller said, is that these cyanobacteria, like all other plants, depend on RuBisCO for survival. The enzyme has found a way to function at temperatures above 160 degrees, something other forms of RuBisCO – and plants that contain it – are incapable of doing.

"There were a handful of changes in this protein that were required for this organism to invade these higher temperatures," Miller said. "Nothing else has figured out how to do it. It provides general and fresh insight into how this protein is stable at high temperatures."

The enzyme takes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and turns it into sugar. It's the most abundant protein on the planet, and it's the basis on which our biosphere was built.

But the problem with RuBisCO, Miller explained, is that it's not very good at the job for which it has evolved to perform. It's slow in function and has a difficult time recognizing carbon dioxide from oxygen.

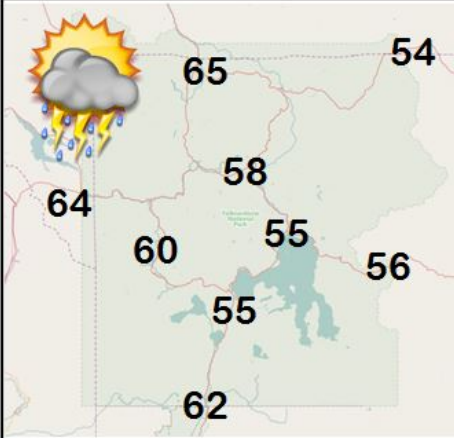
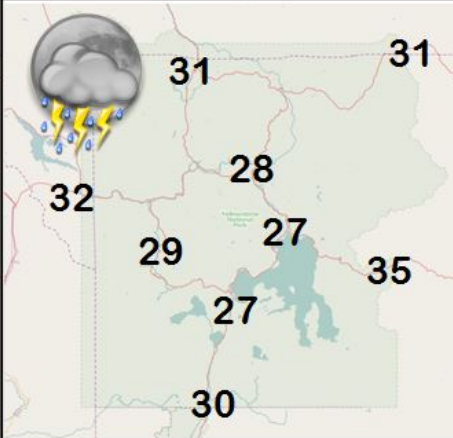
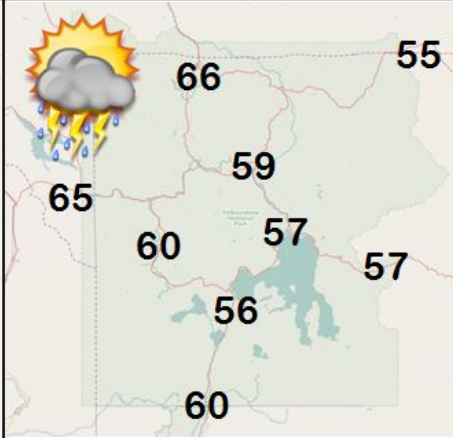
As a result, the enzyme has long interested bioengineers and biochemists looking to make it perform faster and remain stable in changing – and warming – environments beyond the pool.

"You can imagine – and people have thought about this – using photosynthetic organisms to draw down carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, or to build heat tolerance in plants," Miller said. "Understanding RuBisCO from these microorganisms, taken from extreme environments, teaches us new things about the structure and function of this agriculturally and environmentally important enzyme."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/um-professor-studies-life-giving-enzyme-that-thrives-in-yellowstone/article_08066203-25bd-5155-82da-dd78f024147a.html#ixzz2SWjiLO4m

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms and a chance snow showers at higher elevations. Partly cloudy after midnight. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Partly cloudy in the morning... then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent.
		
Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 30 to 37. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Wednesday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 64. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 31 to 44. Thursday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 63. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.		
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday May 7, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Don't forget about the **Grand Opening of the MCC Library, Ice Cream Social & Community Potluck**

Mammoth Community Center, **TONIGHT** at 6pm

Come for a potluck dinner followed by an ice cream social hosted by the MCC in Lower Mammoth! Everyone is welcome at this free family event.

The MCC will provide all the ice cream and chocolate syrup, but please bring **ONE** yummy topping to share **and ONE** of the following foods for the potluck dinner that fall under the letter of your last name.

A-J Main Dish (feeds 5—8 people or more)

K-T Side Dish

U-Z Beverage *and don't forget a topping too!**

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The anchors are packing their bags!

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Starting Monday, May 20, the TODAY team will visit five great U.S. destinations in a single week. Follow in the fun on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram with the hashtag [#TODAYAdventure](#).

They'll soak up the sun, sand and surf in Hawaii on Monday. And trade in the ocean for canyons and cliffs on Tuesday when they hike, fish and camp in the country's first national park: Yellowstone. They'll explore Chicago on Wednesday, discovering everything America's Second City has to offer.

The thrills continue in Orlando on Thursday, when Matt, Savannah and the rest try out wild rides Friday's destination is still a surprise. Stay tuned to see what vacation spot Matt, Savannah, Natalie, Al and Willie will visit!

Come One! Come All! Big Fun Under the Big top at Chico Hot Springs 14th Annual Fundraiser to benefit Stafford Animal Shelter is **Friday, May 17th**.

The circus-themed evening kicks off at 6 p.m. with cocktails and global food, a magician and performing animals, live music by Cindy Hicks and a Silent Auction in the Big Top Tent closing at 7:30 p.m..

The Center Ring opens at 7 pm for a multi-course ethnic dinner with complementary regional wines and beer, the Lucky Dog Raffle and the Ringmaster's Live Auction begins at 8 p.m.

New! Premium Reserved seating for \$100 this year while unreserved seating remains only \$65 before May 1, and \$75 after. Don't miss the Luxury Raffle – only one hundred \$50 tickets sold (need not be present to win) and the winner chooses any auction item. Auction items include a private dinner with Jack Horner, a lavish wine collection, autographed Willie Mays photo, a cruiser bicycle from Timber Trails, Fine Custom Rustics wood bed, chest by Jamie Schwarz of Top Shelf Cabinetry, guitar signed by Mary Chapin Carpenter, Elichai sapphire pendant, original painting by Signature Artist Janie Camp, Frosty Fun Package at Yellowstone National Park, local adventure trips, lots of art, pet services and supplies and much, much more!

Mark **May 17** on your calendar, buy tickets online, call 222-1313 or email shelterbark@imt.net to learn more. **Join us for Big Fun under the Big Top!**

✓**Have you checked your fire extinguisher lately?**

Hello all YNP residents! When was the last time you took a look at the fire extinguisher provided in you park residence? This is just a friendly reminder from Mark Gleason of the Yellowstone Fire Department to:

- ✓ locate your fire extinguisher,
- ✓ make sure it's hung/mounted on the wall in an accessible place, and
- ✓ to inspect it monthly.

If you need any assistance with an extinguisher in your residence please contact a Yellowstone NP Fire Department Office and we will do our best to help you.

Annual Fire Extinguisher Training

Hey YNP employees, it's time to kick off spring training with some *hands-on* fire extinguisher training!

Learn:

- about the different types of extinguishers,
- how to select the right extinguisher for the job, and
- how to safely operate the extinguishers you find in the work place or in your home, to put out an incipient stage fire.

Weekly trainings will be held at both the Lake and Canyon Fire Stations.

We also have the ability to provide mobile training for employees at the Norris and East Entrances.

**** Please contact Mark Gleason 307 344-7135 for times and locations. ****

(An alternative for anyone is to use the DOI Learn for your annual certification. DOI Learn course can be found by a course catalog search for NPS Annual Fire Extinguisher Education.)

The Complete Yellowstone

May 24—28 \$715, NPS Employee cost \$357.50!

Gardiner, Montana

Jim Garry, M.S. and Brad Bulin, M.S.

Teaching and interpreting the complex Yellowstone ecosystem requires a deep understanding of the area's formative geology, intricate thermal activity, interplay of plants and animals, and cultural history and interpretations. This course is designed to be a content-specific training for those interested in interpreting the resources of Yellowstone National Park for others to enjoy. You will explore the park during field-based experiences while enhancing your learning through a variety of guest lecturers who are resources experts within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Wilderness First Aid (through NOLS-WMI)

May 21-22 \$250, NPS Employee cost \$125!

Do you spend a lot of time in the outdoors? Have you ever wondered how you would respond to a backcountry emergency? This 16-hour certification course is ideal for hikers, skiers, and outdoor professionals who want to learn the basics of emergency care in remote settings. You'll learn patient assessment, shock, wilderness wounds, fractures and dislocations, hypothermia, heat illness, altitude illness, and bites and stings. May be used to re-certify as a Wilderness First Responder. No previous certification is required.

IN THE PRESS

Agency reports earthquakes in Idaho, Yellowstone

May 6, 9:39 AM EDT

POCATELLO, Idaho (AP) -- A series of small earthquakes sent jolts across a corner of southeast Idaho Sunday night

The U.S. Geological Survey says two smaller earthquakes were also recorded inside the boundary of Yellowstone National Park in recent days.

Temblors of 4.2 and 3.6 magnitude were recorded in the Lava Hot Springs area. Authorities say the jolts generated calls from concerned residents, but so far there is no damage or injuries attributed to the temblors.

Both quakes are considered mild and not strong enough to cause severe damage.

The two earthquakes recorded in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park were also small - magnitude of 2.9 and 2.7. One hit Friday in an area 40 miles southeast of Gardiner, while the other was recorded Sunday night closer to West Yellowstone, Mont.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 217 AM MDT TUE MAY 7 2013

Today: Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms early in the afternoon. Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 61. Chance of thunderstorms 30 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 29 to 35. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 59. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 31 to 37. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers and slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 52 to 58. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with chance of rain showers and slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 31 to 37. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday May 8, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us today for **Yellowstone Federal Credit Union's Annual Meeting and Open House** from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. A short business meeting will be held at 12:15 PM. Vote for directors, enjoy some refreshments and giveaways, and cash door prizes at the end of the business meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Names have been drawn from among those who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program in April. The following employees will receive an award for their participation:

- Club #1 (Aerobic Exercise): Kerry Gunther, YCR
- Club #2 (Strength Training/Flexibility): Jenny Hill, Admin.
- Club #3 (Healthy Stress Reduction): Angela Trnka, REYP
- Club #4 (Healthy Nutrition): Christine Farrar, RVP
- Club #5 (Lifestyle Choices): Eric Reinertson, YCR

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Certification forms for the month of May are due to Stacey Gunther by June 5th.

Here's to your health!

Farewell Picnic for Christie Hendrix

Thursday, May 16th 4:00 - 5:30 PM - YCR Lawn Across from N. District Maintenance

After many enjoyable years at Yellowstone, Christie, Tyler and Spencer are heading south to Kingman, Arizona where Christie will work part-time for YELL, and Tyler is working for the Arizona Fish & Game. Please join us in wishing Christie farewell on Thursday, May 16th from 4:00 - 5:30 PM. If the weather is nice, the celebration will be outside on the YCR lawn across from North District Maintenance, otherwise it will be in the YCR Conference Room. Summer desserts and refreshments will be available for all to enjoy. Drinks and hugs will also be enjoyed at the Two-Bit in Gardiner following the picnic.

Anyone who wishes to donate toward a parting gift, please send money to Stacey Gunther or Bianca Klein, or stop by the YCR.

YELL's summer road construction information can be found on Yellowstone's web site (soon), the park newspaper, and at [P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction Schedule](#). These projects are made possible through the Surface Transportation Bill; *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*.

The Yellowstone Association is currently seeking a detail oriented team player with a passion for Yellowstone and 3+ years of experience in customer service, sales, or business management to join our team as **Contact Center Manager**. Please refer to the complete position description available at www.yellowstoneassociation.org/jobs.

RECENT NEWS RELEASESES

Celebrate Migratory Bird Day In Yellowstone With Free Programs

Yellowstone and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center staff will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 18, with free programs and a field trip that are open to the public.

A ranger-led bird watching car caravan is set for Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon inside the park. Those interested in participating should meet at the Madison Junction picnic area. Caravan riders are reminded they will still need to pay the \$25 park entrance fee.

Saturday afternoon between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana, will host a live raptor program and games and crafts. Children of all ages can play the migration game, "It's a Risky Journey," create bird masks and origami or participate in a variety of other programs and activities.

For further information, call 307-344-2296.

IN THE NEWS

Gardiner man kills Yellowstone Park wolf

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer
Posted: Wednesday, May 8, 2013 12:15 am

A Gardiner-area landowner shot a research wolf from Yellowstone National Park over the weekend after losing more than a dozen sheep to wolves two weeks ago. On Sunday evening, landowner Bill Hoppe legally shot a wolf that ventured onto his property northwest of Gardiner along the Yellowstone River.

Hoppe called Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks warden Chris Kerin to report the kill because he had used one of two shoot-on-sight permits issued to him by FWP. From wolf tracks he found, Kerin verified that Hoppe killed the wolf on his property.

FWP issues shoot-on-sight permits in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, said FWP spokesman Ron Aasheim. The permits are good for 45 days and do not allow ranchers to shoot wolves outside of the property where a livestock loss happened.

“Depending on the circumstances, any livestock producer can receive shoot-on-sight permits. They have a right for recourse,” Aasheim said.

The black wolf was wearing a VHF radio collar that identified it as “831F,” a member of the park’s Canyon Pack. Yellowstone Park wolf biologist Doug Smith learned of the dead wolf Monday morning from FWP wolf biologist Abby Nelson.

Smith said park wolves were not responsible for the 13 sheep killed on Hoppe’s property April 24. Nelson said the wolf tracks she found two weeks ago came from the east side of the Gardiner Valley, down Little Trail Creek and across U.S. Route 89.

Smith said 831F was a 2-year-old female that normally lives farther south in the park’s Hayden Valley. “She was showing dispersal behavior — with the pack, then gone, then back — but we did not have her close to the scene at the time of the sheep kill,” Smith said. “She had bad luck — wrong place at the wrong time.”

The wolf may have her nose to blame for that bad luck.

In mid-April, Hoppe, a cattle rancher and hunting outfitter, bought about 30 sheep and started raising them on his property.

On April 24, he awoke to find that two wolves had killed five ewes and eight lambs along the river. After Wildlife Services investigated the scene, Hoppe told the, Chronicle that he would transplant the remaining sheep and leave the carcasses on a bone pile on his property.

Carnivores, including wolves and grizzly bears, can smell carcasses a mile away, sometimes farther if conditions are right, Smith said. Wolf 813F may have smelled the decaying meat.

Hoppe has one permit left, and the carcasses remain.

News of the wolf kill spread quickly among the wildlife watchers who follow the park’s wolf packs. On wolf-advocacy Facebook pages, photographers posted several photographs taken when 831F was alive, along with expressions of sorrow.

Meanwhile, on anti-wolf Facebook pages, photos of a bloody, dead 831F spread, along with comments like “Another Yellowstone wolf is dead in Montana. Keep up the good work Montana.”

Wolves of the Rockies vice president Kim Beam said the issue would be brought up at Thursday’s FWP commission meeting in Helena, where the commissioners will consider the 2013 wolf hunting season.

“All the FWP phone lines were lit up this morning. This man needs to be held accountable for baiting,” said Beam. “We’ve tried the middle of the road. We recognize hunting is part of management, but this is not responsible.”

Aasheim said many wildlife managers were participating in a deer symposium Tuesday but were open to public comments anytime.

“Our job is to listen and we do, even if we don’t do what everyone asks,” Aasheim said. Hoppe is an outspoken opponent of wolf and bison restoration. He did not return calls for comment.

Beartooth Pass crew becomes famous on web-posted videos

By Brett French, The Billings Gazette

Steve Reed may be the most popular guy in the Montana Department of Transportation who also remains largely anonymous.

Reed is so famous, yet obscure, because he shoots videos every spring of the snowplowing operations on the Montana side of the Beartooth Scenic Byway. Viewers of the videos never see his face, they just hear his voice as he talks about the snowplowing crew's progress.

"The people who know that it's me, I get a little grief about that," said Reed, the section supervisor for MDOT in Red Lodge, after hopping down from a road grader equipped for plowing.

Reed will be unmasked soon. His supervisors ganged up on him Tuesday and shot a video with him in front of the camera to introduce him to viewers so they can put a face to the familiar voice.

"We got an email from a couple in Pennsylvania who watch those videos religiously," said Tom Tilzey, MDOT maintenance superintendent. "It's probably one of the most popular sites on our page."

Low snow

Reed's crew started plowing the 11-mile stretch of Highway 212 south of Red Lodge in mid-April. There wasn't much to plow on the lower reaches. Instead, the men were delayed by plowing duties in Red Lodge, which sits at a lower altitude.

"We lost four days just plowing snow down in Red Lodge," Reed said. "It got 1 foot of snow that one Sunday night. But it snows a foot there, and you come up here and there was only 3 inches."

"It's scary," Tilzey said. "I keep reading where the snowpack's not that bad, but I don't know where they're at. Everywhere I've been it's pretty sad."

Last year was a low snow season on the Beartooth Pass, as well, whereas the two years before that drifts were high and deep.

No matter how much snow, the crew of seven to 12 men has plenty to do. If the snowpack is low, they spend more time cleaning rockfall out of ditches and from behind rock-catching screens.

MDOT director Mike Tooley stopped by on Tuesday for a tour of the operations. He was appointed to the position by Gov. Steve Bullock last November. Before that, Tooley was the chief of the Montana Highway Patrol.

"I think it's important to come up and see what people do," Tooley said.

"It's just a lot of fun learning about a new side of transportation," he added. "And these guys are stars."

Hardpack

Although the snowpack is minimal on the pass this spring, the snow that was there was "bulletproof," Reed said. Steady winds had deposited layers of dust in the snow, and combined with early thawing and then freezing, the snow's crust was thick and hard.

By Tuesday, however, the temperature was up to 56 degrees and water was running down the road. It was the

warmest day on the mountain so far this spring.

The plows and snowblower had worked their way to within about a mile of the state line. From there on into Wyoming, Cooke City and Yellowstone National Park's Northeast Entrance, Park Service plow crews are responsible for clearing the road.

That will be delayed this year following budget cuts that prompted Yellowstone National Park to postpone the plowing to let Mother Nature melt some of the snow. Depending on the NPS plow crew's progress, the entire route may not open until June 14, two weeks later than usual. The Montana side always opens the Friday before Memorial Day weekend, but progress past the state line won't come until the Park Service crews punch through.

Yellowstone crews began plowing the section of Highway 212 between Cooke City and the Highway 296 junction on Tuesday and expect to have that cleared before the Memorial Day weekend.

Tooley said his department had been contacted by some Cooke City residents to open the route sooner, but he said it's not practical for Montana to haul equipment there, would be expensive and the townsfolk are divided over whether it's a good idea since some like the road to be seasonally open to snowmobiles only. What's more, Tooley said the stretch of road isn't Montana's responsibility.

Snow-goers

Although Montana's plowing crew was nearing their destination, they never rest easy as spring and even summer storms have been known to drop up to 3 feet of snow and winds can cause whiteout conditions or blow in deep snowdrifts.

"More than likely, we'll be back up here again after we finish," Reed said. "It's inevitable."

Tilzey agreed.

"About the time you think you've got it figured out around here, something else happens," he said.

Yet crew members like Shawn Mains, who was running the PistenBully snowcat, don't mind pushing snow at a time when people in the valleys thousands of feet below are mowing their lawns and planting gardens.

"I never get tired of the snow," he said.

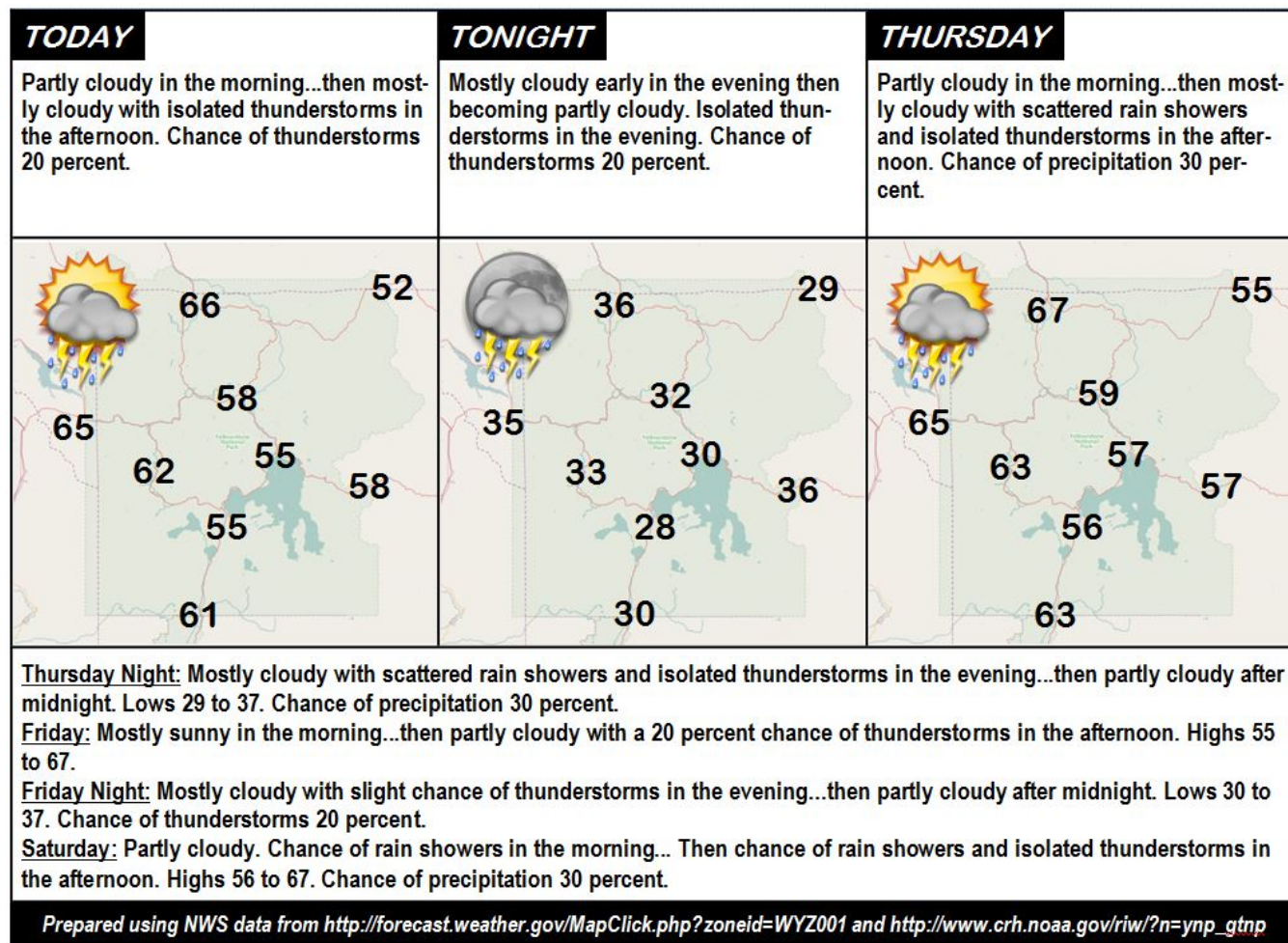
And probably nowhere else at this time of year will you hear people utter, "We're lucky it's been cold up here."

That's because dry, cold snow is lighter and easier to blow and push than when the snow gets wet and heavy. Wet snow also can plug up the rotary blower, which takes some strenuous shovel work to unplug.

Plus, working so close to thousands of acres of wilderness not far from Yellowstone, the crews get to see such unusual occurrences as a black wolf trailing a band of mountain goats, grizzly bear tracks in the snow, a black bear hopping over a guardrail and a fox that shadowed the crew's plow as if playing. Their "office" is like no other.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

**WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday May 9, 2013

Like Snakes on a Plane, only better. This is one of those “only in Montana” moments!

Baby rattlers loose in downtown Livingston

Published: Wed, 05/08/2013 - 2:02pm | By Rose Brown - Enterprise Staff Writer

One baby rattlesnake has been captured, but there could be 10 or more on the loose in downtown Livingston after about a dozen others escaped from a cage in the back of a pickup Tuesday afternoon.

The pickup was parked in the alley behind the Whiskey Creek Saloon at 110 N. Main St. around 4 p.m. Tuesday afternoon when some of the bar’s customers noticed that a couple of snakes had escaped from their cage and were loose in the back of the truck, said Whiskey Creek bartender Lori Munroe Wednesday morning.

Then one customer spotted a snake that had escaped the truck and a group set out to capture it. Grabbing whatever tools they could find in their vehicles, they hunted down the rattler and one man pinned the snake’s head down with a fishing pole. He then picked it up with his hand and put it in a cooler. Later they transferred it to a different plastic container. The snake was about a foot long, Munroe said.

“It was kind of a show-and-tell day here,” she said about the atmosphere at the bar.

The owner of the truck, who has not been identified, left the scene, but returned an hour later to say that he was missing a total of 12 snakes, including the one captured, Munroe said.

It’s not clear if the snakes escaped in the downtown area or in other locations, she said, but she and customers searched the area without finding any of the missing rattlers.

Only the smallest snakes were able to escape because the gauge of the mesh in the cage was wide enough for them to squeeze through, Munroe said.

The actual explanation for the snakes’ escape is still unknown.

The mesh size of some snake cages will hold adult snakes but not babies, according to local rattlesnake consultant and enthusiast Michelle Becker.

Becker, who has been capturing and handling rattlesnakes for 23 years, warns the public that baby rattlesnakes can actually be more dangerous than adult rattlesnakes.

Immature rattlers don’t have the ability to regulate their venom and are inclined to strike and release all of their venom in one strike, which can be extremely poisonous, Becker said.

Also, they can’t be heard, because their rattles are not developed yet, she said.

You can tell the difference between a baby rattler and a garter snake because a baby rattler has a stubby tail with a black button on it, Becker said. A garter snake has stripes and its tail tapers to a point.

Baby rattlesnakes, which eat insects, would be capable of surviving downtown through the summer, but probably not much longer, Becker said.

If there are a dozen baby rattlers now living downtown, it is a significant concern for the safety of people and pets, she said.

This is the time of year that snakes are coming out of their dens, so it's not uncommon for snake handlers to have rattlesnakes now, but it's important for them to be responsible, Becker said.

Livingston City Police continue to investigate the incident.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Here's to your health!

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone's South Entrance Opens Friday, May 10 *Road from Cooke City to the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway also open*

The South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park will open for the season on Friday morning, May 10, as originally scheduled.

As of 8:00 a.m. Friday, visitors will be able to travel through the South Entrance to Grant Village, West Thumb Junction and on to Fishing Bridge and across Craig Pass to Old Faithful.

Inside the park, the road between Canyon and Tower-Roosevelt over Dunraven Pass will open to travel May 24 in time for the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Due to construction, there will be daytime delays of up to 30 minutes and nightly closures on the section of road between Tower-Roosevelt Junction and Chittenden Road beginning May 28.

All other interior park roads are open for the season.

In addition, National Park Service (NPS) crews are clearing a section of US-212 outside the park's Northeast Entrance. The road from Cooke City, Montana, to the intersection with WY-296, the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway, will open May 10, weather permitting.

The section of the Beartooth Highway between the junction of US-212/WY-296 and the community of Red Lodge, Montana, is set to open on Friday, June 14.

Visitor services throughout the park are opening for the season. Operating dates and hours are available online at http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/ocd_locale.htm or by consulting the free park newspaper, provided to visitors at each entrance station.

Budget cuts due to the impacts of sequestration were expected to delay the opening of some park entrances and road segments by one to two weeks. Fundraising by the communities of Cody and Jackson, Wyoming allowed crews and equipment from the Wyoming Department of Transportation to assist the NPS with spring road clearing, allowing the East and South Entrances to the park to open as originally scheduled.

Visitors should be aware that spring in Yellowstone is very unpredictable and often brings cold temperatures, high winds and falling snow. Cleared sections of roads can be narrow and covered with a layer of snow, ice and debris. Visitors should use extreme caution when driving as road clearing operations can be ongoing at any time

throughout the park. In the case of extreme weather conditions, temporary road closures are also possible with little or no advance warning.

Updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day by calling 307-344-2117. Information on current conditions in the park is also available online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/conditions.htm>.

IN THE NEWS

Decline in Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout ‘bad news’ for shoreline osprey

1 hour ago • By Ruffin Prevost YellowstoneGate.com

CODY, WYO. — The decline in Yellowstone cutthroat trout in Yellowstone Lake has meant that anglers in Yellowstone National Park must release any of the native fish that are caught. Unfortunately, for the park’s osprey, catch-and-release fishing is not an option.

Osprey are among the 40 species of animals in Yellowstone that rely on cutthroat trout as a food source. But unlike grizzly bears, for instance, or even bald eagles — two species that can adapt their diets somewhat to different food sources depending on available prey — osprey are almost entirely reliant on fish.

While osprey in other parts of Yellowstone are holding their own, the plunge in cutthroat trout in Yellowstone Lake has been “bad news” for osprey nesting in that area, said Lisa Baril, a Yellowstone biologist who specializes in raptors.

Baril outlined the effects of cutthroat trout declines on bald eagles and osprey during a discussion last week at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, formerly the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in Cody, Wyo.

Over the last 25 years, invasive lake trout have reproduced rapidly in Yellowstone Lake, preying on the native cutthroat trout. Cutthroat swim into streams and rivers connected to the lake to spawn, and occupy more shallow depths in the lake than lake trout do. Lake trout eat the cutthroats and tend to stick to deeper waters, where osprey and other animals can’t catch them as easily as cutthroats.

Baril has gathered data from annual monitoring surveys of osprey and bald eagles around Yellowstone Lake to try to figure out how declines in cutthroats might be making it tougher for the birds to survive.

As it turns out, there doesn’t seem to be a strong connection between successful reproduction of bald eagles and the availability of cutthroat, Baril said.

That’s probably because “bald eagles have a wider diet,” she said, with fish making up only about 30 percent of their total prey. Bald eagles around Yellowstone Lake can turn to everything from ducks to carrion to help make up for lost trout.

Researchers studying the bald eagles and osprey along the 150 miles of Yellowstone Lake shoreline also looked for evidence that bald eagles might be faring better because they are out-competing osprey for fish.

While that direct competition between the two species may exist along the lake, Baril said researchers found no evidence of it.

The good news for osprey is that in other parts of Yellowstone, where other prey fish are more readily available, the birds are doing well, with populations holding steady. In fact, some osprey are probably leaving the lake for other waters inside or outside the park.

“They’re going to go wherever the food is, and the food is not at Yellowstone Lake right now, so they’re dispersing elsewhere,” Baril said.

With assistance from the Yellowstone Park Foundation, the National Park Service has hired commercial netters to remove as many lake trout from Yellowstone Lake as possible. While lake trout can’t be eradicated from the Yellowstone Lake, the goal is to reduce and hold their numbers at a level low enough that cutthroat can make a significant comeback.

More than 1.1 million lake trout have been removed since 1994, and the effort will continue, Baril said.

Annual monitoring efforts for osprey, bald eagles and other birds will also continue, as researchers and raptors wait for cutthroat to return.

There’s really not much else to do, Baril said.

“There are lots and lots of nests on Yellowstone Lake, and many of them are empty,” she said. “These nests are still there, they’re just not being occupied like they once were.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/decline-in-yellowstone-lake-cutthroat-trout-bad-news-for-shoreline/article_92163a1c-a544-5c88-b706-8b05f41f36f0.html#ixzz2SoN9iwar

Early visit to Yellowstone a dream come true for recovered cancer patient

22 hours ago • By Ruffin Prevost YellowstoneGate.com

CODY, Wyo. — David Hanna was diagnosed with cancer in 2010 and spent much of the next two years in treatment and recovery. When he was declared cancer-free last year, he began planning a dream vacation to Yellowstone National Park. His goal was to get into the park as soon as possible.

On Friday, the first day Yellowstone was open to Cody, Wyo., through the East Entrance, David stood at Steamboat Point above Yellowstone Lake, shooting snapshots of his wife, Verna.

“It’s just amazing. I’ve never seen anything like this,” David said as he looked out over the frozen lake and the steaming fumaroles nearby.

The Hannas, chicken farmers from Magee, Miss., had left home in mid-April, towing a travel trailer and stopping along the way to take in sights like Mount Rushmore. By the time they reached Cody, they were low on supplies and ready to restock.

“We’re down to potted meat and crackers,” David joked.

The Hannas said they were worried that David’s dream vacation might be delayed when they heard news that federal budget cuts under the congressional sequester would mean a late opening for Yellowstone.

They were delighted to hear that the Wyoming communities of Cody and Jackson were raising private funds to pay for state personnel and equipment to help get the roads plowed on time, allowing them to keep their original schedule.

“We were calling the whole time we were on the road to make sure it would still be open on time,” Verna said.

They ended up reaching Cody a few days before Friday's season opening for the park, so they took in the local sights, coming away "real impressed with Wyoming and amazed with everything Cody has to offer," David said.

The Hannas' experience is exactly what business leaders in Cody and Jackson have said they were aiming for when they decided to help fund snow plowing, an effort backers say has paid dividends in positive national headlines and widespread goodwill among early visitors.

But for many others visiting Yellowstone on Friday, the politics and economics of snow plowing took a back seat to the animals, including a grizzly sow and her cub spotted between Sedge Bay and Lake Butte Overlook.

A group of photographers and wildlife watchers lined the road Friday afternoon as the bear, dubbed "Blaze" by park regulars familiar with the mother grizzly, moved in and out of view. If Blaze was concerned about the sudden seasonal reappearance of homo sapiens along the East Entrance road, she didn't seem to show it.

Elsewhere in the park, another group spent part of the day straining to see a grizzly bear and a white wolf, both moving through the Hayden Valley.

"We've had some incredibly good luck spotting things whenever we come early," said Gayle Six, who drove up from Salt Lake City, Utah for an early visit to the park.

Six was among a large group of wildlife watchers tracking a white wolf that was walking along the Yellowstone River.

She usually visits Yellowstone a couple of times each year, Six said, typically at least once in May or June, "before it gets way too busy."

Many in the park said they liked visiting Yellowstone before July or August, when crowds make it more difficult to move around or take in the sights.

The trade-off is cooler weather—it was 32 degrees atop Sylvan Pass at mid-morning—and fewer facilities and services available.

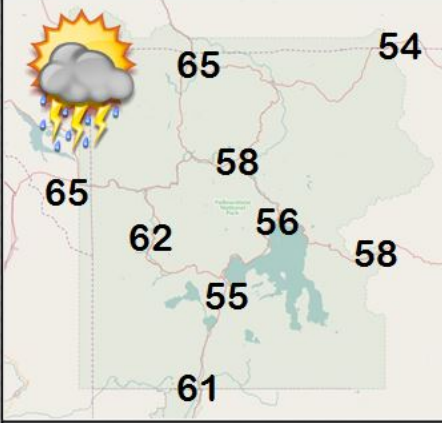
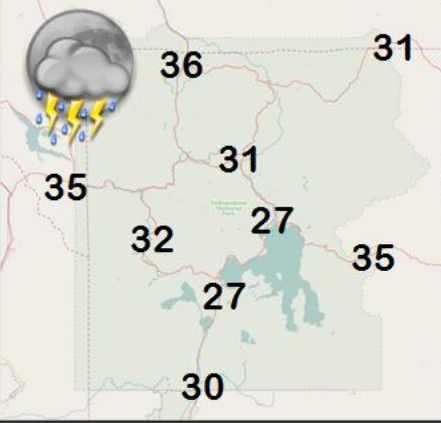
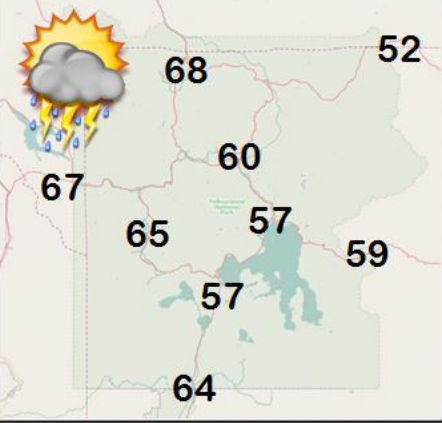
For the Hannas, fewer people and more visible animals was just fine. Although the chicken farmers said they were a bit perplexed to see bison wandering around Yellowstone while also showing up on local restaurant menus in Cody.

"Who would want to eat one of those?" David asked. "They should be eating more chicken."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/early-visit-to-yellowstone-a-dream-come-true-for-recovered/article_ae7adb43-6949-5a7c-9b5a-c3dfd50e66d2.html#ixzz2SoO92fBS

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY
Mostly sunny this morning, becoming mostly cloudy in the afternoon. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.	Mostly cloudy early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.
		
Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 29 to 36. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent. Saturday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 67. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 33 to 43. Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of afternoon rain showers. Highs 60 to 73.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday May 10, 2013



National Park Service employee **Ms. Pat Burk** unlocking the South Entrance, which opened at 8:00 a.m. today.

Several vehicles were lined up waiting to travel into Yellowstone Friday morning as the park's South Entrance opened for the season at 8:00 a.m., as originally scheduled.

In addition, the section of US-212 outside the park's Northeast Entrance between Cooke City, Mont., and the intersection of WY-296 (the Chief Joseph Scenic Highway) also opened for the season on Friday morning.

Fundraising by the communities of Cody and Jackson, Wyo., allowed Wyoming Department of Transportation crews to assist the National Park Service with spring snow removal, permitting the park's South and East Entrances to open on their originally scheduled dates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Maintenance is looking for snowmobile 1027, a **green Arctic Cat TZ1**, to return to our snowmobile contractor. All other machines have been delivered and this unit does not show in any outside area at this time. If someone knows where this unit, please let maintenance know so they can deliver it back to West Yellowstone.

The **Yellowstone Trail Crew** will be removing and replacing the Mallard Lake Trail bridge over the Firehole River behind the Old Faithful Lodge. It will take us approximately one month to complete (May 13th - June 13th). The trail segment will be closed both night and day throughout the duration of activity, as there will be no great spot to go around. With rising waters during this time frame, it would NOT be advisable to cross the river.

If Mallard Lake is a destination for people, those folks will still be able to get there via the Mallard Creek Trail (off of the Grand Loop Road near the Midway Geyser Basin) or the Keppler Cascade Ski Trail.

There will be closure maps posted on appropriate posts, and travel will be steered toward the other two trail heads. There may also be a need to cone off a section of the residential area road for staging and safety concerns (There will still be access to all buildings, however, through traffic near the trail head might not be possible at times). It is imperative to close this trail segment due to the lack of a bridge, material piles, tools, power equipment, rigging etc. that will create many safety hazards for all user groups (including both visitors and employees). Thank you for your understanding.

Farewell Picnic for Christie Hendrix

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Anyone who wishes to donate toward a parting gift, please send money to Stacey Gunther or Bianca Klein, or stop by the YCR.

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Names have been drawn from among those who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program in April. The following employees will receive an award for their participation:

- Club #1 (Aerobic Exercise): Kerry Gunther, YCR
- Club #2 (Strength Training/Flexibility): Jenny Hill, Admin.
- Club #3 (Healthy Stress Reduction): Angela Trnka, REYP
- Club #4 (Healthy Nutrition): Christine Farrar, RVP
- Club #5 (Lifestyle Choices): Eric Reinertson, YCR

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Wellness Incentive Program (WIP). Full program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. Certification forms for the month of May are due to Stacey Gunther by June 5th.

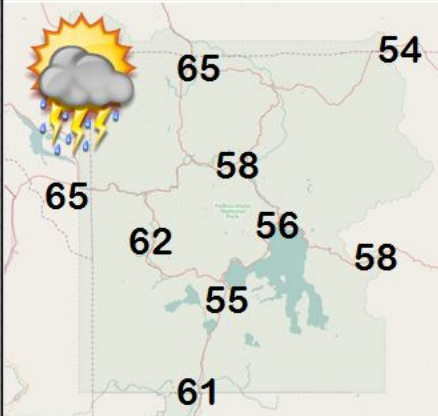
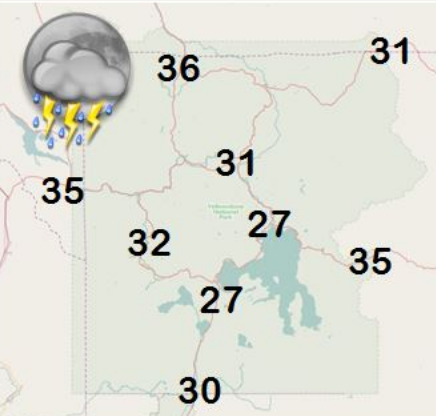
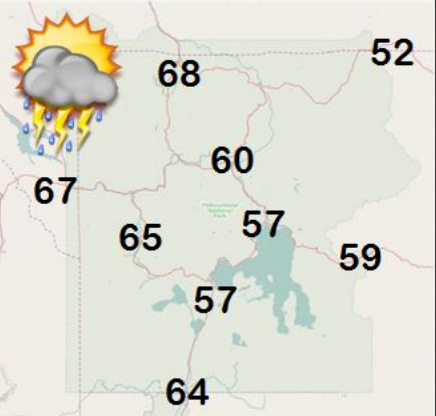
Here's to your health!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday May 13, 2013



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boiling River is closed due to high water as of 5/10/2013.

The Contracting Office will be **closed on Monday, May 13** for training. If you need assistance on Monday, please call Al Barrie's cell phone at (406) 581-0403. Thanks.

The **Yellowstone Trail Crew** will be removing and replacing the Mallard Lake Trail bridge over the Firehole River behind the Old Faithful Lodge. It will take us approximately one month to complete (May 13th - June 13th). The trail segment will be closed both night and day throughout the duration of activity, as there will be no great spot to go around. With rising waters during this time frame, it would NOT be advisable to cross the river. If Mallard Lake is a destination for people, those folks will still be able to get there via the Mallard Creek Trail (off of the Grand Loop Road near the Midway Geyser Basin) or the Keppler Cascade Ski Trail.

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Heartsaver First Aid and CPR Sign-Up at P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

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\$10.00 per table. 8am is set up. **Free to attend.**

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IN THE PRESS

Ted Turner wins Yellowstone bison transfer court challenge

14 hours ago • Associated Press

BOZEMAN — Billionaire Ted Turner can keep his Yellowstone National Park bison calves.

Gallatin County Judge Holly Brown dismissed a request by a coalition of wildlife advocates to overturn an agreement Turner made with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

The agreement transferred dozens of bison to Turner's private ranch near Bozeman to be taken care of for five years. In exchange, Turner gets 75 percent of their offspring, or about 150 animals.

Four wildlife groups that opposed the transfer filed a lawsuit contending the animals are a public resource that should be shielded from privatization. The suit's plaintiffs said the state should either move the animals onto public land or pay Turner to take care of them rather than give up their young as compensation.

Brown in her decision three weeks ago said state lawmakers gave the state wildlife agency broad decision-making authority in the management of bison.

"The court cannot substitute its judgment for that of the agency by determining whether the department's decision was correct," she wrote.

The plaintiffs, Western Watersheds Project, the Buffalo Field Campaign, the Gallatin Wildlife Association and the Yellowstone Buffalo Foundation, said they will appeal.

Tens of millions of bison once roamed North America, but they were driven to near-extinction in the late 19th century. Yellowstone's 3,000 bison comprise one of the largest remaining populations in the world.

"The simple truth is that management of Yellowstone bison is no easy task, from either a logistical standpoint or a public relations one," Brown wrote. "Yellowstone bison arouse great passions from individuals and groups across the spectrum."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/ted-turner-wins-yellowstone-bison-transfer-court-challenge/article_1b3036fb-590a-5bc8-bcbd-65c5afacacde.html#ixzz2TBO3xq9P

Photographing 'People of Yellowstone'

Liz Kearney - Enterprise Staff Writer

What started out as a one-summer project is still going strong into its fourth year.

Photographer Steve Horan has hiked, forded streams and visited abandoned wolf dens in pursuit of photographs for his series called "People of Yellowstone."

Horan, a professional photographer who specializes in portraits, takes photos of people who live and work in — and love — Yellowstone National Park. Horan said the idea came from his brother Jim Horan, a Livingston resident, who worked in the park himself.

In fact, Steve's first visit to the park was to visit Jim 28 years ago, when Jim worked a seasonal job at Roosevelt Lodge.

"I knew when Jimmy suggested it, it was a good idea because of the unique situation people are in (Yellowstone)," Steve said Tuesday, as he and his friend Duncan Moran, an employee with The Frame Garden in Livingston, worked printing his photos.

To date, Horan has 65 images. He hopes to shoot 25 more this summer.

He'll display 36 of the images next week in a one-day show in Gardiner. The show will be held at Elk River Art Studio & Gallery on Wednesday, May 15, from noon to 9 p.m.

Next week's show will feature portraits of people mostly from the Gardiner, Mammoth Hot Springs and West Yellowstone area.

"Locals," Horan said.

One image is of Yellowstone Wolf Project biologist Doug Smith.

Smith is shown with a wolf skull and hide. Horan caught the image in Yellowstone's Lamar Valley on a day Smith was leading a field class on wolves.

This reporter noted the color and contour of the wolf's fur is echoed in Smith's hair.

"Yes!" Horan exclaimed. "Exactly. Every picture tells a story about the person's passion for Yellowstone."

Another portrait features Bob Barbee, who was superintendent in Yellowstone during the fires of 1988. He's shown in firelight, sitting near a campfire.

Bob Barbee agreed to be photographed near a fire? After all the controversy of the fires that roared across the park that summer?

"Because of that, we see fire differently now," Horan said, referring to the natural regeneration seen in the park in the intervening years. "And he agreed to do the campfire photo."

Horan hiked with Mike Stevens, who collaborated on the book, "The Guide to Yellowstone's Waterfalls and Their Discovery."

And he visited an abandoned wolf den with naturalist Linda Thurston. Horan suggested she crawl into the den. She did.

"She said, 'It's warm in here,'" Horan laughed.

Horan said his photos are a collaboration between himself and the subject. He often meets with the person one or more times just to talk before taking any photos.

As he gathered images and the word got out about his project, people he photographed began suggesting other people who would be interesting subjects.

“That gave me credibility,” Horan said.

And working in a digital format allowed him to show his subjects the photos immediately. They could work together for other ideas for photos.

“They get into it more, the more they see what’s happening,” he said.

Horan admires the people he has photographed.

“Everyone has a reputation of doing what they do, well,” Horan said. “And people seemed to be able to do a number of different things well. You have to be flexible like that to survive around here.”

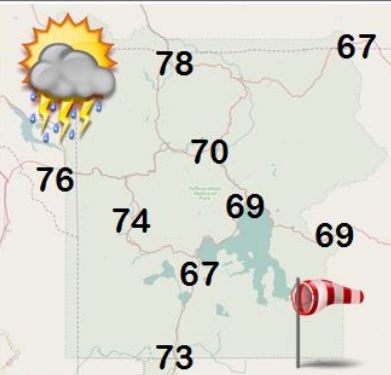
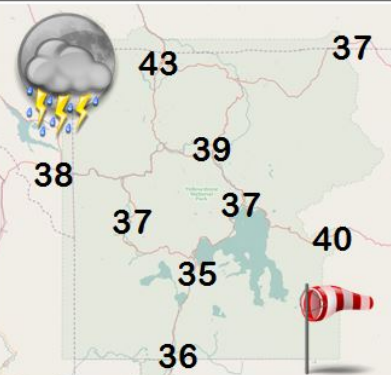
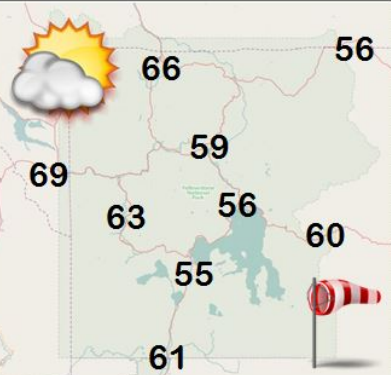
Horan’s ultimate goal is to publish a coffee table art book of his black-and-white images.

And while a large book of pictures of people many of us know may sound like it would be of limited interest, Horan disagrees.

“The book will show parts of the park they would not see otherwise, through the environmental photography,” Horan said. “I think it will have more appeal than locally.”

WEATHER

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Tuesday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows 30 to 39. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Wednesday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 69. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 30 to 39. Thursday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 54 to 65. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.		
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YNP@Work

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Tuesday May 14, 2013



DOL riders moving 180 bison from the South Fork of the Madison towards the West Entrance of the park. Approximately 200 bison remain outside the park.

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One week from TODAY...the anchors will be in #Yellowstone. Here's a preview of what you'll see. [#TODAYAdventurepic.twitter.com](https://twitter.com/TODAYAdventurepic)

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Seeks Comment On Energy Company Proposal To Upgrade Substations and Land Mobile Radio System

The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comment regarding a capital improvement plan proposed by the utility company that provides electrical service to Yellowstone National Park.

The NPS is planning to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze impacts associated with a proposal by NorthWestern Energy to construct seven new 60-foot towers, small equipment buildings, back-up power generators, and propane fuel tanks at seven existing substation sites inside the park.

These infrastructure improvements are being proposed to provide remote computer monitoring and control of the electrical distribution system and to replace an obsolete radio communications system utility crews need when working inside Yellowstone. These improvements are intended to reduce the number and duration of power outages in the park, which impact the visitor experience, park operations, and visitor and employee safety, and to improve safe communications for utility crews during repair operations.

The first step in preparing an environmental assessment is to ask the public to help identify issues or concerns that park staff should consider. This process, known as public scoping, is now open and runs through June 13, 2013.

The public is encouraged to attend one of the following public meetings to learn more about the proposal:

- Tuesday, May 21 in Cody, Wyo.: Park County Library Grizzly Hall, 1500 Heart Mountain Street
- Wednesday, May 22 in Bozeman, Mont.: Holiday Inn, 5 Baxter Lane East

Both open house-style meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are scheduled to conclude by 7:45 p.m.

Additional information on the proposal along with instructions on how to submit comments online at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NWEPlan>.

Respondents are encouraged to submit their comments through the PEPC website. Comments may also be mailed to the National Park Service, Compliance Office, Attn: NorthWestern Energy Communication and Automation Plan, P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190. Comments may also be hand-delivered during

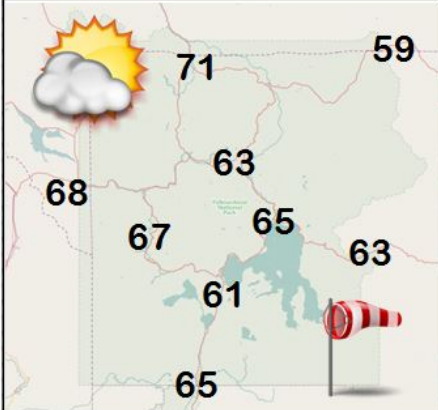
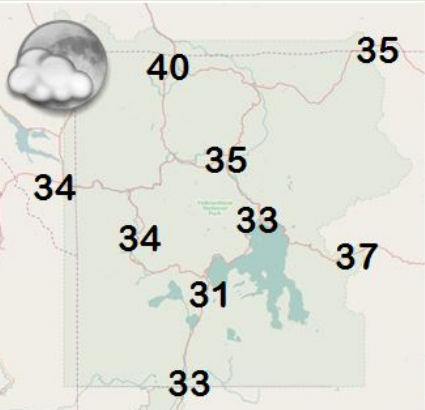
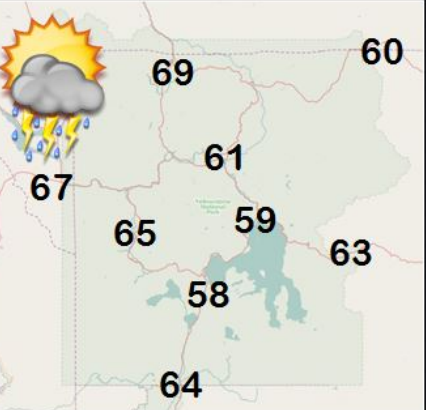
normal business hours to the Mailroom in the park's Administration Building in Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming.

This project will be developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

Comments will not be accepted by fax, e-mail, or in any other way than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted. Comments must be received by midnight MDT, June 13, 2013.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY
Breezy. Mostly sunny early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts at some locations up to .	Partly cloudy. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.	Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.
		
Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 30 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 20 percent. Thursday: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 53 to 63. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent. Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 29 to 42. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Friday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain showers in the morning... Then chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 61. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

Back issues of the newsletter are available at <P:\YNP@Work Published Issues>

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday May 15, 2013



Superintendent Dan Wenk addresses the Jackson community Tuesday at Rotary/Chamber luncheon.

PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK, 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Day after day, police officers in every corner of America suit up, put on the badge, and carry out their sworn duty to protect and serve. They step out the door every morning without considering bravery or heroics. They stay focused on meeting their responsibilities. They concentrate on keeping their neighborhoods safe and doing right by their fellow officers. And with quiet courage, they help fulfill the demanding yet vital task of shielding our people from harm. It is work that deserves our deepest respect -- because when darkness and danger would threaten the peace, our police officers are there to step in, ready to lay down their lives to protect our own.

This week, we pay solemn tribute to men and women who did. Setting aside fear and doubt, these officers made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the rule of law and the communities they loved. They heard the call to serve and answered it; braved the line of fire; charged toward the danger. Our hearts are heavy with their loss, and on Peace Officers Memorial Day, our Nation comes together to reflect on the legacy they left us.

As we mark this occasion, let us remember that we can do no greater service to those who perished than by upholding what they fought to protect. That means doing everything we can to make our communities safer. It means putting cops back on the beat and supporting them with the tools and training they need. It means getting weapons of war off our streets and keeping guns out of the hands of criminals -- common-sense measures that would reduce gun violence and help officers do their job safely and effectively.

Together, we can accomplish those goals. So as we take this time to honor law enforcement in big cities and small towns all across our country, let us join them in pursuit of a brighter tomorrow. Our police officers serve and sacrifice on our behalf every day, and as citizens, we owe them nothing less than our full and lasting support.

By a joint resolution approved October 1, 1962, as amended (76 Stat. 676), and by Public Law 103-322, as amended (36 U.S.C. 136-137), the President has been authorized and requested to designate May 15 of each year as "Peace Officers Memorial Day" and the week in which it falls as "Police Week."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, do **hereby proclaim May 15, 2013, as Peace Officers Memorial Day** and May 12 through May 18, 2013, as Police Week. I call upon all Americans to observe these events with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also call on Governors of the United States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of the other territories subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and appropriate officials of all units of government, to **direct that the flag be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day.** I further encourage all Americans to display the flag at half-staff from their homes and businesses on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

BARACK OBAMA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Boiling River is closed due to high water as of 5/10/2013.

Farewell Picnic for Christie Hendrix

TOMORROW 4:00 - 5:30 PM - YCR Lawn Across from N. District Maintenance

After many enjoyable years at Yellowstone, Christie, Tyler and Spencer are heading south to Kingman, Arizona where Christie will work part-time for YELL, and Tyler is working for the Arizona Fish & Game. Please join us in wishing Christie farewell on Thursday, May 16th from 4:00 - 5:30 PM. If the weather is nice, the celebration will be outside on the YCR lawn across from North District Maintenance, otherwise it will be in the YCR Conference Room. Summer desserts and refreshments will be available for all to enjoy. Drinks and hugs will also be enjoyed at the Two-Bit in Gardiner following the picnic.

Anyone who wishes to donate toward a parting gift, please send money to Stacey Gunther or Bianca Klein, or stop by the YCR.



SPRING FLING Rummage Sale is this Saturday 5/18 9 am to 1 pm. The sale was a huge success last year and the gym was full so we will be setting up tables in the halls and on the lawn. **Breakfast burritos, baked goods and ice cream cones** will be available for a donation.

\$10.00 per table. 8am is set up. **Free to attend.**

p.s. We will not be selling for you and you must take with you everything of yours that does not sell.

The **Yellowstone Trail Crew** will be removing and replacing the Mallard Lake Trail bridge over the Firehole River behind the Old Faithful Lodge. It will take us approximately one month to complete (May 13th - June 13th). The trail segment will be closed both night and day throughout the duration of activity, as there will be no great spot to go around. With rising waters during this time frame, it would NOT be advisable to cross the river. If Mallard Lake is a destination for people, those folks will still be able to get there via the Mallard Creek Trail (off of the Grand Loop Road near the Midway Geyser Basin) or the Kepler Cascade Ski Trail.

There will be closure maps posted on appropriate posts, and travel will be steered toward the other two trail heads. There may also be a need to cone off a section of the residential area road for staging and safety concerns (There will still be access to all buildings, however, through traffic near the trail head might not be possible at times). It is imperative to close this trail segment due to the lack of a bridge, material piles, tools, power equipment, rigging etc. that will create many safety hazards for all user groups (including both visitors and employees). Thank you for your understanding.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR training is available. Please sign up on the P drive at location listed below. Pick up a study guide from the Supply Center prior to the class and bring the booklet with you to the class. If there is interest in a class at a different time or location, please contact Juanita Bueter at 406-224-2629.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR Sign-Up at P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

May 21, 2013 (Tuesday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Mammoth Community Center**)

June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Canyon Visitor Center conference room**)

YELL's summer road construction information can be found on Yellowstone's web site (soon), the park newspaper, and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction Schedule>. These projects are made possible through the Surface Transportation Bill; *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Watercraft in Yellowstone Required To Be Invasive Species Free

In order to more thoroughly protect the waters of Yellowstone National Park, all motorized and non-motorized watercraft entering the park's lakes must first pass an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspection on their boats as part of the watercraft permitting process.

National Park Service (NPS) staff will also conduct daily required inspections, seven days per week, for all boats that launch from Bridge Bay, Grant Village and Lewis Lake boat ramps.

Aquatic invasive species are non-native plants and animals that can have significant ecological and economic impacts on the park's natural resources. Examples of destructive species that have become established in park waters over the past several years include New Zealand mudsnails, whirling disease and lake trout in Yellowstone Lake.

These species not only damage Yellowstone waters, but they may affect the entire delicately-balanced ecosystem as well. They also require a great deal of time and money in personnel and equipment needed to study them and remove them from park waters and in many cases, removal is not feasible. Since 2009, Yellowstone's AIS program staff has had contact with more than 7,000 park boaters and performed more than 3,000 watercraft inspections, which resulted in more than 120 affected boats being cleaned with the use of a non-chemical AIS decontamination treatment.

Motorized boating is allowed on Yellowstone and Lewis lakes. Only non-motorized boating is allowed on most

other park lakes, and permits are required for all boats and float tubes. The park's South Entrance, Grant Village Backcountry Office and Bridge Bay Ranger Station sell all boat permits, while the Mammoth Backcountry Office, Lewis Lake Campground and West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center sell only non-motorized permits. The Northeast Entrance, Bechler Ranger Station and Canyon and Old Faithful backcountry offices sell only float tube permits. Watercraft owners must pass a successful AIS inspection or have their affected watercraft treated prior to being issued a permit. Violations should be reported to the nearest Ranger Station, or dial the park's main information line at (307) 344-7381.

Information on boating and boat permitting in Yellowstone can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/boating.htm>. Information on AIS can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/fishingexotics.htm>.

Yellowstone's AIS education and prevention programs are funded in part by generous donations from the park's official fundraising partner, The Yellowstone Park Foundation. Information on YPF can be found at www.ypf.org.

IN THE PRESS

Yellowstone elk-calf survival may be linked to decline in native trout

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 12:15 am

An unlikely solution to improved elk-calf survival may be to protect native trout.

New research out of the University of Wyoming appears to indicate that grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park may be munching increasingly on elk calves because their preferred diet of cutthroat trout is disappearing, mainly because of human actions.

Biologist Arthur Middleton said his paper, published this month in the prestigious journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, is the synthesis of a number of separate studies, most notably a study of grizzly bears' diet in the park.

That long-term study, published in February out of Washington State University and Bozeman's Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, found that all three of the grizzly bear's main food sources — cutthroat trout, pine nuts and elk — have declined in recent years in the park.

Scientists found the proportion of meat in a male grizzly bear's diet has noticeably decreased since the mid-1990s. The amount of trout consumed by bears has declined between 70 percent and 95 percent between 1997-2000 and 2007-2009.

To replace that, bears are turning to elk. The study found grizzly bears in the park kill an elk calf every three to six days.

In 2007, just as the second half of the diet study was ramping up, Middleton was starting to trail the Clark's Fork migratory elk herd between Cody, Wyo., in the winter and the park's upper Lamar Valley in the summer.

"We were seeing a steady decline in the number of elk calves," Middleton said. "Some other work led us to the growing number of grizzlies and wolves. Combined with the drought, the effect was less elk." When Middleton became aware of the diet study, the pieces seemed to come together.

Other studies have shown that native cutthroat trout populations are dwindling in the park over the past two decades, especially in Yellowstone Lake, where introduced lake trout prey on cutthroat. And like the elk, cutthroat trout are also negatively affected by climate change because they are adapted to colder waters.

Middleton took all the information about elk, bears and trout and plugged it into a model.

“It suggested that grizzly bears could be having a meaningful influence on the elk. Far less clear is the magnitude of that effect or which particular herds are most affected,” Middleton said.

Three or four herds of elk migrate in and out of the park and end up pooling in the Lamar Valley.

Middleton said he did not factor in the effect of specific diseases that can affect elk, such as brucellosis or chronic wasting disease.

“We have more to do to see if brucellosis can reduce the number of calves that much,” Middleton said. “We don’t think that’s a major factor here.”

Middleton has moved on to a post-doctoral position at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, so he has no plans for research that might parse out the specific effect grizzlies have on elk calves.

He also cautioned against jumping to conclusions based upon his findings.

“It’s worth stressing that the work doesn’t say (grizzly bears) are the main reason for elk calf declines,” Middleton said. “We might just want to think about the effect we’ve had on the changing bear diet when we consider causes.”

Helicopter hazing lawsuit renewed

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

Posted: Wednesday, May 15, 2013 12:15 am

The Department of Livestock has begun its annual bison-hazing operations west of Yellowstone National Park, and an environmental group is renewing its challenge of the use of helicopters.

On Monday, the Alliance for the Wild Rockies requested a temporary injunction from the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on the use of helicopters in hazing operations.

Over the past few years, AWR requested both temporary and permanent injunctions against helicopters, claiming that low-flying aircraft adversely affected grizzly bears, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act. The permanent injunction request was filed in 2011, and U.S. District Judge Charles C. Lovell denied an accompanying restraining order.

Then last year, Lovell granted a temporary injunction five days after it was filed and an hour after hearing oral arguments. Temporary injunctions last two weeks.

Finally in March, Lovell dismissed the permanent injunction case mainly on a technicality: AWR had not waited long enough before filing its lawsuit.

Under the Endangered Species Act, a petitioner must give the challenged agency 60 days notice before filing a lawsuit to allow time to address the issue without court intervention.

Lovell also noted that AWR had failed to show that helicopters used during the hazing operations adversely affected grizzly bears.

On March 27, AWR sent a 60-day notice to the DOL indicating it intended to file another challenge. In the meantime, AWR is appealing Lovell's decision to the Ninth Circuit, so that's where they sent the request for this year's temporary injunction.

AWR executive director Mike Garrity said the Ninth Circuit might not grant the temporary injunction but "you don't know until you try."

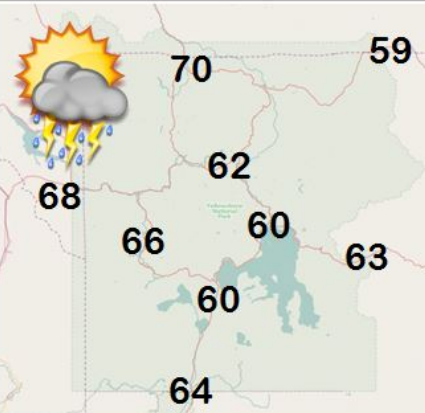
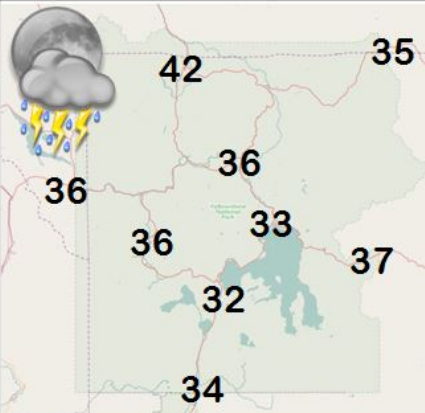
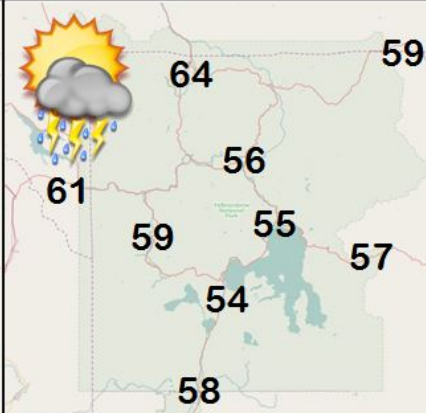
AWR's opening brief on the appeal is due in July.

In March, upon learning of Lovell's ruling, MacKay said helicopters might not be used for hazing because of funding issues. Federal funding was questionable due to the federal budget sequestration.

But the Buffalo Field Campaign reports that DOL helicopters have been flying around West Yellowstone since Monday in an attempt to round up bison.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Partly cloudy with scattered rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.
		
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 30 to 43. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Friday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning... Then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 51 to 61. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 30 to 39. Chance of precipitation 50 percent. Saturday: Cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 48 to 59. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday May 16, 2013



Remember to keep the proper distance between you and all animals!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy 50th Birthday to West Ranger Les Brunton!!! Hope you have a great day.

Farewell Picnic for Christie Hendrix

TODAY 4:00 - 5:30 PM - YCR Lawn Across from N. District Maintenance

After many enjoyable years at Yellowstone, Christie, Tyler and Spencer are heading south to Kingman, Arizona where Christie will work part-time for YELL, and Tyler is working for the Arizona Fish & Game. Please join us in wishing Christie farewell on Thursday, May 16th from 4:00 - 5:30 PM. If the weather is nice, the celebration will be outside on the YCR lawn across from North District Maintenance, otherwise it will be in the YCR Conference Room. Summer desserts and refreshments will be available for all to enjoy. Drinks and hugs will also be enjoyed at the Two-Bit in Gardiner following the picnic.

Anyone who wishes to donate toward a parting gift, please send money to Stacey Gunther or Bianca Klein, or stop by the YCR.



SPRING FLING Rummage Sale Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm.

Breakfast burritos, baked goods and ice cream cones will be available for a donation.

\$10.00 per table. 8am is set up. **Free to attend.**

p.s. We will not be selling for you and you must take with you everything of yours that does not sell.

AND the **Rodeo Club Yard Sale** is **Saturday** from 9 am to noon at the Rodeo Grounds. All items are "Make A Donation" - no set prices. All proceeds go towards the Annual Gardiner Rodeo.

The Today Show is broadcasting their 3 hour show from **Old Faithful on Tuesday morning, May 21st**. All employees are invited to attend on their own time if interested... the catch is that the show will begin at 5 am (7 am east coast) and run until 8 am (10 am east coast). But everyone is welcome to be in the crowd around the main broadcast area between the OFVEC and the Old Faithful Geyser.

If you plan to make the trip, please park by the **OF Ranger Station, or the East Lot (by the OF Lodge)** rather than behind or in front of the OF Inn.

Also, **UNLESS YOU ARE WORKING THE EVENT** (you know who you are), please do **NOT** wear your NPS uniform... It will be cold and possibly raining or snowing (temps about 25 predicted) - so dress warm...

Contact Bonnie Schwartz with any specific questions.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR training is available. Please sign up on the P drive at location listed below. Pick up a study guide from the Supply Center prior to the class and bring the booklet with you to the class. If there is interest in a class at a different time or location, please contact Juanita Bueter at 406-224-2629.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR Sign-Up at P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

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June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Canyon Visitor Center conference room**)

YELL's summer road construction information can be found on Yellowstone's web site (soon), the park newspaper, and at [P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction Schedule](#). These projects are made possible through the Surface Transportation Bill; *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*.

WEATHER

Admin Travel recording 344-7115.

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 552 AM MDT THU MAY 16 201

Today: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers...snow showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning...then numerous thunderstorms in the afternoon. No snow accumulation. Highs 53 to 59. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 34 to 40. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 56. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday Night: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Saturday: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 48 to 54. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday Night: Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers and rain showers after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 28 to 34. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday May 17, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SPRING FLING Rummage Sale TOMORROW from 9 am to 1 pm.

Breakfast burritos, baked goods and ice cream cones will be available for a donation.

\$10.00 per table. 8am is set up. **Free to attend.**

p.s. We will not be selling for you and you must take with you everything of yours that does not sell.

AND the **Rodeo Club Yard Sale** is **TOMORROW** from 9 am to noon at the Rodeo Grounds. All items are "Make A Donation" - no set prices. All proceeds go towards the Annual Gardiner Rodeo.

Celebrate Migratory Bird Day In Yellowstone With Free Programs



Yellowstone and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center staff will celebrate International Migratory Bird Day **TOMORROW** with free programs and a field trip that are open to the public.

A ranger-led bird watching car caravan is set for Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. to noon inside the park. Those interested in participating should meet at the Madison Junction picnic area. Caravan riders are reminded they will still need to pay the \$25 park entrance fee.

Saturday afternoon between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone, Montana, will host a live raptor program and games and crafts. Children of all ages can play the migration game, "It's a Risky Journey," create bird masks and origami or participate in a variety of other programs and activities.

For further information, call 307-344-2296.



Great spring weather means **it's time to play touch rugby**. Come down to the Gardiner School field on Mondays at 6:00 PM for fun and exercise. No experience necessary.



The Today Show is broadcasting their 3 hour show from **Old Faithful on Tuesday morning, May 21st**. All employees are invited to attend on their own time if interested... the catch is that the show will begin at 5 am (7 am east coast) and run until 8 am (10 am east coast). But everyone is welcome to be in the crowd around the main broadcast area between the OFVEC and the Old Faithful Geyser.

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Contact Bonnie Schwartz with any specific questions.

Please remember: the Roosevelt to Tower road project is still CLOSED to Admin Travel *unless* associated with the opening of the Campground or Tower Fall General Store.

- May 24, the road will OPEN to all travel. Tower Fall Campground opens May 24.
- No construction delays or closures Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27.
- Tower Fall General Store opens May 31.

Look for Road Construction updates on Yellowstone's web site and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction>.

Collecting plastic? Plastic retail bags, that you don't plan to reuse, can be packed together into one bag and dropped into the bin for recycling of PLASTIC CONTAINERS. This includes; produce bags, newspaper bags, bread bags, case wrapping (from a case of snacks or beverages), air pillows (packing), and the plastic wrap from napkins, paper towel, bathroom tissue and diapers. Please recycle only clean, dry and empty plastic bags, film and wrap.

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IN THE NEWS

'Today' show to broadcast Tuesday from Old Faithful

By RUFFIN PREVOST YellowstoneGate.com for The Billings Gazette

CODY, WYO. — As many as 3.5 million visitors typically pass through Yellowstone National Park over the course of a busy year. On Tuesday morning, more than 5 million “Today” show viewers are expected to enjoy the sights and sounds of Yellowstone with their morning coffee.

All five anchors of the NBC show will be broadcasting from Old Faithful as “Today” goes on the road before Memorial Day to visit five great American summer vacation destinations in five days.

The trip kicks off Monday in Hawaii, before continuing to Yellowstone, Chicago, Orlando, Fla., and wrapping up Friday at the Jersey Shore.

“They are all places people will want to go this summer, and they are all iconic, each with their own personality,” “Today” executive producer Don Nash said by telephone Thursday.

Show anchors Matt Lauer, Savannah Guthrie, Al Roker, Natalie Morales and Willie Geist will all broadcast together from each of the five locations.

“We’ve never taken all five anchors on a trip this ambitious before,” Nash said. “I know they’re all excited, and the crews are excited.”

Those crews are made up of a small army of about 70 technical, artistic and support personnel required to pull off a live three-hour broadcast from one of the most remote spots in the country.

Nash said he’s hoping for an eruption of Old Faithful near the start of the broadcast, and expects at least two eruptions from the reliable geyser over the course of the show. Crews have also been working on segments specific to Yellowstone, including segments on grizzly bears, wolves, wilderness survival and federal budget cuts known as the sequester.

One segment will look at the effects expected this summer as a result of the sequester on Yellowstone and other national parks, Nash said.

Rick Hoeninghausen, vice president for sales and marketing at Xanterra Parks & Resorts, the park’s primary lodging and activities concessioner, said the show was also planning a cooking segment featuring staff from the Snake River Grill in Jackson, Wyo., as well as a piece featuring Boy Scouts from Gardiner, Mont.

A ‘big deal’

Hoeninghausen has been working with staffers from “Today” to coordinate lodging, meals, equipment staging and other logistics around Old Faithful. The production will occupy nearly two dozen hotel rooms at Old Faithful, plus more in West Yellowstone, and will use satellite trucks, lights, generators and other equipment, he said.

“There’s going to be a lot of stuff,” he said. “This is a big deal.”

Crews are expected to begin staging equipment over the weekend and will set up lights and sets Monday, working overnight to be able to broadcast live at 5 a.m. Mountain Time on Tuesday, he said.

The main anchor desk will be located between the Old Faithful Visitor Center and the geyser itself. Another live broadcast spot will be outside near a stand of trees, with additional broadcast points in the Old Faithful Inn on the second floor balcony overlooking the lobby, and on the second-floor deck, Hoeninghausen said.

Curious Yellowstone fans may be able to watch workers as they set up by keeping an eye on the Old Faithful webcam, he said.

Also watching over the “Today” show production will be National Park Service staff members with Yellowstone’s permitting and public affairs offices, said park spokesman Al Nash.

“When it comes to any kind of a production, whether it’s a one- or two-person news crew that comes in locally or something the size of a three-hour live television broadcast, our basic focus is the same,” Nash said. “Our job is always to protect what is special about Yellowstone and minimize any impact to visitors.”

He said the “Today” crews have been “great to deal with” because they have experience broadcasting from remote locations and “understand our need to protect the place and to minimize the show’s impact to visitors.”

Nash said the broadcast is a rare chance to reach millions of viewers who will learn about key Yellowstone topics directly from park staffers, including grizzly bear biologist Kerry Gunther, Yellowstone Wolf Project leader Doug Smith and geologist Hank Heasler.

News business

Federal laws require the Park Service to charge a fee for commercial productions shot in Yellowstone, Nash said. While news agencies covering breaking events are typically exempt from permitting and fees, NBC will be assessed a fee because of the scope of the production and the demands on staff time, he said.

“But we certainly don’t treat this NBC news-produced program like we would a Hollywood film,” he said.

Whatever the fees turn out to be, NBC probably has room in the show’s budget.

According to New York Times media reporter Brian Stetler’s book “Top of the Morning: Inside the Cutthroat World of Morning TV,” the “Today” show generates an estimated \$500 million in annual revenue for NBC, allowing the network to pay Matt Lauer a reported \$25 million per year. Stetler writes that “Today” is the most lucrative property at NBC News, and effectively subsidizes programs like “Meet the Press” and “NBC Nightly News.”

Executive producer Don Nash took one of his first trips as a “Today” producer in 1995, when Bryant Gumbel and Katie Couric hosted from Old Faithful. It was around that time that “Today” began an incredible streak of more than 16 years atop the morning show ratings.

But Nash, the producer, said the trip to Yellowstone wasn’t a ratings stunt, despite “Today” finally breaking its streak last year and falling behind “Good Morning America” after the tumultuous firing of co-host Ann Curry.

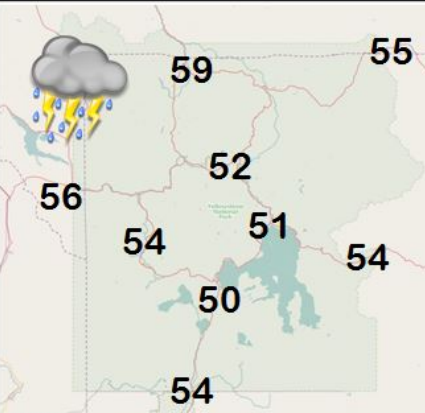
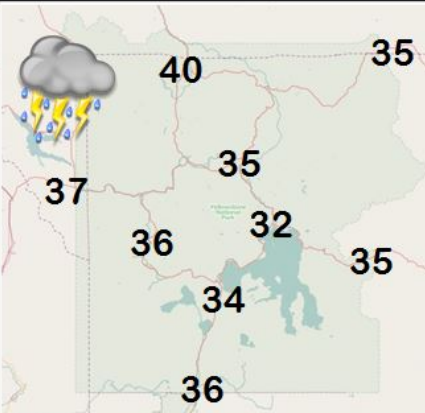
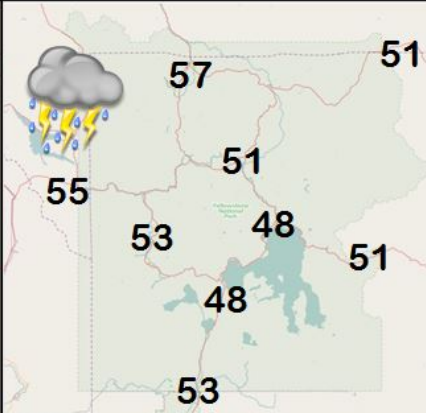
The “Today” show will broadcast live from 5-8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21 from Old Faithful. Producers have invited members of the public to turn out in person to watch the production.

Perhaps not coincidental, though, is the timing of the Nielsen ratings sweeps period—a month-long interval that measures ratings for key demographics, and that can mean millions for a lucrative show like “Today.” The May sweeps period ends Wednesday, one day after “Today’s” broadcast from Yellowstone.

The production schedule won't leave much time for sightseeing, as crews will rush after the broadcast wraps to pack up and fly off to Chicago, but Nash said he is still looking forward to seeing Yellowstone again.

"That park is one of my favorite places in the world," he said.

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Numerous rain showers... snow showers and isolated thunderstorms in the morning... then numerous thunderstorms in the afternoon. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.	Cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening... then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.	Cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning... then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.
		
Saturday Night: Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers and rain showers after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 28 to 39. Chance of precipitation 60 percent. Sunday: Numerous rain showers and snow showers in the morning... Then numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 1-2 inches. Highs 44 to 53. Chance of precipitation 60 percent. Sunday Night: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers...snow showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Lows 27 to 38. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Monday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 46 to 56. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Monday Night: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain and snow. Lows 28 to 34.		
 Tuesday: Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of rain showers. High 53-65 At Old Faithful: 5:00 am. temperature 31, twilight 5:15 a.m., sunrise 5:50 a.m., 8:00 am. temperature 36		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday May 20, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be aware that at least two different employees in offices in Headquarters in Mammoth received a suspicious phone call this morning from a male with a Middle Eastern accent who identified himself as "Luke" from the chamber of commerce and asked the employee to confirm their position. When pressed for which Chamber of commerce he was from, the caller hung up.

Anyone else receiving a suspicious call, please notify your supervisor and the Chief Rangers Office.

If you get a suspicious call from an unknown person or business, I suggest asking them for their name, business they are calling from and a return number so you can offer to have a supervisor return their call.

This suspicious caller began the call asking the employee to confirm their full name and position. The best tactic is to not answer any questions but rather ask them questions and see what type of response you get.

Hard to say exactly what the suspicious caller is up to, could be trying to verify some information in an attempt to illegally use a government credit card, could be something else.

Keep your guard up and report anything that just doesn't seem right for the benefit of all our safety.



Great spring weather means **it's time to play touch rugby**. Come down to the Gardiner School field on Mondays at 6:00 PM for fun and exercise. No experience necessary.



The Today Show is broadcasting their 3 hour show from **Old Faithful TOMORROW**. All employees are invited to attend on their own time if interested... the catch is that the show will begin at 5 am (7 am east coast) and run until 8 am (10 am east coast). Everyone is welcome to be in the crowd around the main broadcast area between the OFVEC and the Old Faithful Geyser.

If you plan to make the trip, please park by the **OF Ranger**

Station, or the East Lot (by the OF Lodge) rather than by the OF Inn.

Also, **UNLESS YOU ARE WORKING THE EVENT** (you know who you are), please do **NOT** wear your NPS uniform... It will be cold and possibly raining or snowing (temps about 25 predicted) - so dress warm...

Contact Bonnie Schwartz with any specific questions.

Please remember: the Roosevelt to Tower road project is still CLOSED to Admin Travel *unless* associated with the opening of the Campground or Tower Fall General Store.

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Look for Road Construction updates on Yellowstone's web site and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction>.

Collecting plastic? Plastic retail bags, that you don't plan to reuse, can be packed together into one bag and dropped into the bin for recycling of PLASTIC CONTAINERS. This includes; produce bags, newspaper bags, bread bags, case wrapping (from a case of snacks or beverages), air pillows (packing), and the plastic wrap from napkins, paper towel, bathroom tissue and diapers. Please recycle only clean, dry and empty plastic bags, film and wrap.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR training is available. Please sign up on the P drive at location listed below. Pick up a study guide from the Supply Center prior to the class and bring the booklet with you to the class. If there is interest in a class at a different time or location, please contact Juanita Bueter at 406-224-2629.

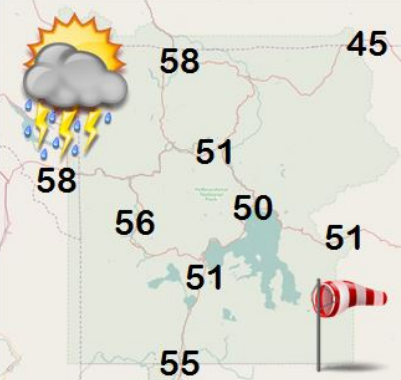
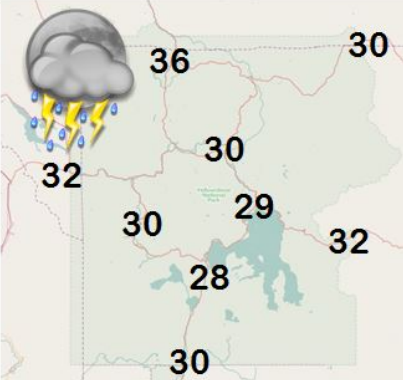
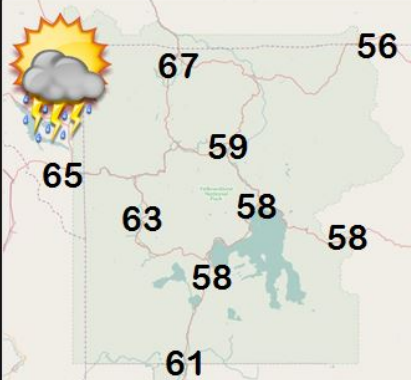
Heartsaver First Aid and CPR Sign-Up at P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

TOMORROW 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Mammoth Community Center**)

June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Canyon Visitor Center conference room**)

YELL's summer road construction information can be found on Yellowstone's web site (soon), the park newspaper, and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction Schedule>. These projects are made possible through the Surface Transportation Bill; *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*.

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY
Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers early in the morning. Scattered rain showers. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. North winds 7 to 20 mph with gusts to 28 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.	Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening, with isolated rain or snow showers in the late evening and overnight. Gusty north winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.	Partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.
		
 Old Faithful: Twilight 5:15 a.m., Sunrise 5:50 a.m. At 5:00 am: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of isolated low lying fog. Temperature 30, RH 90%, Winds ENE 5 mph At 8:00 am: Partly cloudy. Temperature 36, RH 84%, Winds NE 5 mph		
Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 31 to 40.		
Wednesday: Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 71.		
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 32 to 40. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.		
Thursday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 68. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riv/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday May 21, 2013



Although the area was ready, The Today Show was redirected to Oklahoma and did not air from Old Faithful this morning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE PRESS

YNP might face lasting budget cuts, fee hikes

Posted: Monday, May 20, 2013 2:31 pm by Mark Heinz

Sequestration budget cuts might stick at Yellowstone Park, Superintendent Dan Wenk said Monday.

“What we started with this fiscal year might become the ‘new normal,’” Wenk said while speaking during National Parks Day at the Cody Club luncheon

He and Grand Teton Park superintendent Mary Gibson Scott said if President Obama’s proposed budget passes, their budgets will return to previous levels – but neither expects that to happen.

At least for this season, the effects of sequestration were significantly dampened by getting the east and south gates open on time May 3 – rather than two weeks later, as had been expected, Wenk said.

“I don’t know how to put it, other than to say thank you,” Wenk said, regarding local fundraising efforts that paid for Wyoming Department of Transportation crews to do the necessary plowing.

That helped YNP avoid cuts in services, he said.

Instead, the Park Service might increase fishing fees, and has already raised some camping fees, Wenk said.

On the positive side, YNP has almost wrapped up another 20-year contract with Xanterra Parks & Resorts as the Yellowstone's primary concessionaire.

That could result in Xanterra investing up to \$140 million in Yellowstone, Wenk said.

It will involve such things as cabins being used to house employees opening up for park guests, as Xanterra builds new employee dormitories, he said.

In other business, Wenk noted the proposed YNP winter use plan is still open for public comment on the park's website, nps.gov/yell/index.htm.

Comments are due by June 17.

"I'm cautiously optimistic we have a proposal which the access community and the environmental community can both accept," he said.

Wenk also noted the "nine-mile slump" on the east gate road west of Sylvan Pass should be fully repaired this year.

Part of the road collapsed there during the exceptionally strong spring runoff in 2011.

Visitors should expect some delays, and automatic "traffic lights" at the repair site, Wenk said.

Court rejects helicopter haze injunction

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 12:15 am

An appeals court has denied a temporary injunction to halt helicopter use in bison hazing operations.

On Monday, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied a temporary injunction filed by the Alliance for Wild Rockies to stop helicopter hazing because of the threat posed to endangered grizzly bears.

AWR executive director Mike Garrity said it was likely because the Department of Livestock has said it finished using the helicopter for the year.

AWR filed a lawsuit in federal court to permanently stop helicopter hazing. But in March, U.S. District Judge Charles C. Lovell denied the restraining order.

AWR has appealed his ruling to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Garrity said he's been told the case is being moved up but has no court date yet.

The DOL used the helicopter to haze bison from areas north of West Yellowstone back into Yellowstone National Park. Bison must return to the park in the spring to avoid contact with cattle to prevent disease.

DOL spokesman Steve Merritt said helicopter operation costs around \$700 an hour.

The U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service designated that no federal funds be spent on helicopter flights, so all funding comes from the livestock department's animal health budget, Merritt said.

Lab to analyze dead bison tissue

Laura Lundquist, Chronicle Staff Writer Posted: Tuesday, May 21, 2013 12:15 am

A rising Yellowstone River may have stymied efforts to discover if anything unusual killed several bison near Yellowstone National Park.

Over the weekend, Fish, Wildlife and Parks employees worked to get tissue samples from dead bison that were first reported along the river Thursday.

FWP veterinarian Jennifer Ramsey said they located two bison along a sand bar in the river near Big Creek on Friday, but the spring runoff made wading out to them treacherous.

They returned Saturday with a raft and were able to take samples from the downstream bison, which was half submerged. The other bison was in too precarious a position to work on.

Ramsey said she extracted samples from the bison's major organs and sent them to the Department of Livestock laboratory for analysis. The results won't be known for a week or two.

"Nothing really stood out as unusual on the side of the bison that was above water. There was some blood in the abdomen near the pelvis, but I don't know how that would play in," Ramsey said. "The lab can look at the microscopic things we couldn't see. Depending on what they find, they could send it on to another lab for further investigation."

Ramsey said the results could end up being normal or the tissue could have been too waterlogged to provide good results. Samples from another animal might have helped, but they could find only the two bison.

Members of the Gallatin Wildlife Association voiced concerns about disease last week after dead bison started surfacing, especially after sheep were recently moved onto property upstream.

Sheep can carry malignant catarrhal fever, which is fatal to bison. The disease is related to herpes, and because it produces no ill effects in sheep, all sheep should be presumed to be carriers, according to the Alberta Sheep and Wool Commission.

Glenn Hockett of the Gallatin Wildlife Association said there had been reports of bison close to the sheep property.

Hockett looked into reports of more dead bison but said he found only two on Monday.

The bison that was not sampled was still in some willows, and Hockett said he thought it was accessible.

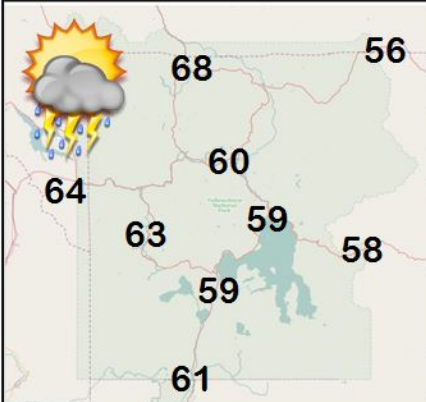
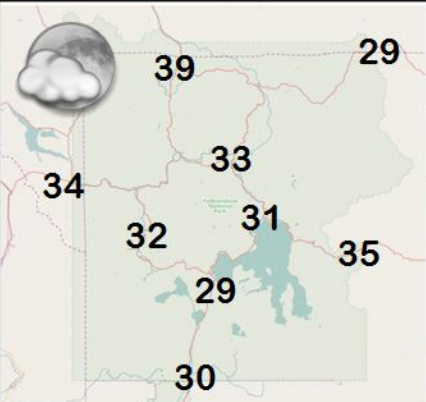
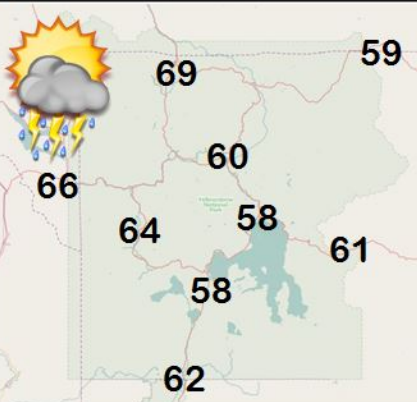
“There are differences of opinion as to what could be done with that one,” Hockett said.

FWP spokeswoman Andrea Jones said it’s not unusual in the spring to find dead bison. They’ve usually died of starvation, old age or a fall through the ice, Jones said.

“We had at least two this time last year,” Jones said. “But we’re looking into this because there is this concern out there.”

Jones added that someone had already collected the head from the bison Ramsay sampled. She said the same thing happened to the bison that was shot after crossing over Dome Mountain in March.

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY
Mostly sunny to partly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.	Partly cloudy. Southeast winds around 15 mph after midnight.	Partly cloudy in the morning... then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. South winds around 15 mph with gusts to 22 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.
		
Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail in the evening. Lows 31 to 41. Chance of precipitation 40 percent. Thursday: Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 55 to 69. South winds around 15 mph with gusts to 23 mph in the afternoon. Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 27 to 39. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent. Friday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of thunderstorms and snow showers in the morning...then slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 61. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.		
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday May 22, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Elk Calving Season Safety Reminder

The spring season of elk calving has begun. During this period, it is not uncommon for adult cow elk to bed their calves near buildings when they graze nearby lawns or meadows. As a consequence, people walking near or exiting buildings may inadvertently approach elk calves. This can result in cow elk defending the calf by charging or kicking at people.

Cow elk are much more aggressive towards people during the calving season. Please use caution when walking near elk cow/calf groups and look around corners before exiting buildings or walking around blind spots.

Please remember that knowingly approaching within 25 yards of elk is prohibited. Park Visitors may think that it is safe to approach closer than 25 yards of elk if they see uniformed NPS or Concession personnel doing so.

Thank you for your help in reducing the frequency of these incidents.

Kerry Gunther - Bear Management Office

Yellowstone Employee Commuter Survey

Are you a full time term or permanent employee? Have you taken the commuter survey yet? If you haven't, don't delay...take the Yellowstone employee commuter survey today!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YELLCommute>

Please help the Green Team gather information regarding your commute to work each day. Long or short, each commuter survey has important information needed by the Green Team in their efforts to become a Climate Friendly Park. Thanks to the 31.5% of the park's employees who have already taken the survey! We need at least 75% of our employees to take the survey in order for the surveys to count, so please take just a few minutes to answer the 8 easy questions, or call Bianca if you'd like a paper copy. Thanks to everyone for your help!

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IN THE NEWS

Wildlife officials extend comment period for grizzly plan

The Associated Press

Federal wildlife officials are extending the comment period on proposed changes to a recovery plan for threatened grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park.

Tuesday's announcement gives the public until June 20 to weigh in on a plan that calls for maintaining a minimum grizzly population of at least 500 animals. That compares to an estimated 600-700 bears currently living in the Yellowstone area.

The plan also would give the government more flexibility in determining if too many grizzlies are dying.

The comment extension was requested by Earthjustice, an environmental law firm representing Defenders of Wildlife, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club.

Earthjustice attorney Tim Preso says the groups' concerns about the government proposal will be detailed in an upcoming response.

Life-flight begins service in Cody

By HEIDI HANSEN | *The Cody Enterprise* - Posted: Monday, May 20, 2013 2:33 pm

Pilots for a private air medical “life-flight” service planning to serve the Big Horn Basin took their first practice flights in the region May 13.

They landed on West Park Hospital’s helipad multiple times.

Two days later, the national organization EagleMed began officially providing service from Yellowstone Regional Airport to the Big Horn Basin.

Based on contracts with area hospitals to be the preferred air medical provider, last fall EagleMed began recruiting a full air medical staff to service the region.

EagleMed currently operates medical air service in 28 locations nationwide, employing more than 350 people. They now have a 13-person staff in Cody, comprised of four pilots, four nurses, four paramedics and one helicopter mechanic.

The “preferred provider” agreement does not cost partnering hospitals money, but does require them to call EagleMed first if a patient is in need of life-flight service.

“EagleMed will be a great partner with WPH in providing care for our patients and community,” said Dr. Scott Polley, medical director of the WPH Emergency Department. “They will help expedite the transfer of patients to our facility from outlying areas.

“And at the same time, they will help expedite the transfer of those patients who need transport to a higher level of care in a timely manner.”

Hospital CEO Doug McMillan has said having the service in Cody will significantly reduce the response time (which averages 50 minutes from Billings) for patients in need of life-flight service from any of the region’s hospitals.

EagleMed estimates they will provide an average of 350-400 life-flights from the Big Horn Basin annually, McMillan added. Of that, approximately 150 flights will originate from WPH.

WPH Emergency Services Director Kevin Schlosser told the hospital board the 24-hour availability of air medical service in Cody will be an asset for providing timely, safe treatment to hospital patients.

In the past, WPH emergency services has had to rely on air medical service from Billings – which means at least a 50-minute wait before transport.

And if the chopper in Billings wasn’t available, a nurse would spend more time on the phone finding another provider before a patient could be transported, he added.

That won’t be the case with EagleMed, he said. If their service is unavailable, an EagleMed representative will find another provider.

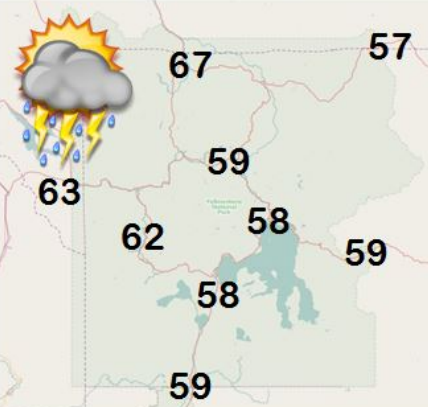
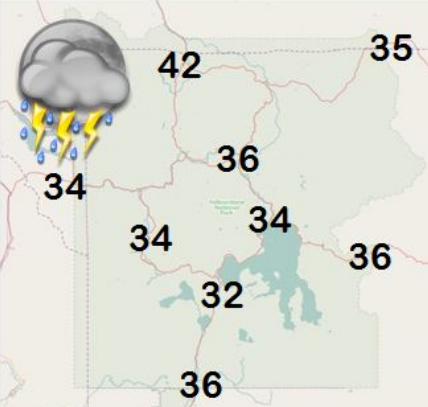
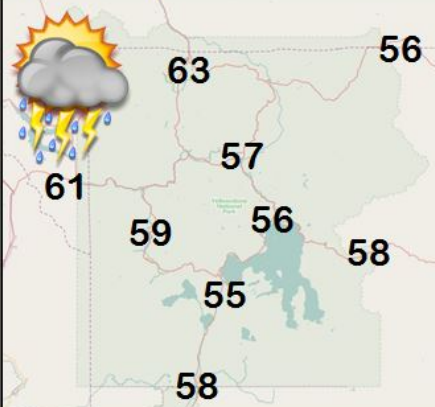
Because the EagleMed chopper will be able to travel long distances at high altitudes, and even land in snow, EagleMed also will be able to pick up patients in Yellowstone and assist with regional search and rescue missions, Schlosser said.

“All EagleMed aircraft are configured for mission-critical transports,” spokesman Robbie Copeland said. The Cody base will operate with a medically configured Eurocopter AS350 B3 helicopter.

“Having a service such as EagleMed based in Cody helps West Park Hospital fulfill its commitment to area residents of being the Big Horn Basin’s regional medical center,” McMillan said.

“It’s the latest in a long line of partnerships developed to bring high-quality services to Cody that aren’t usually found in a community of our size.”

WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY
Partly sunny to mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning... then scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. South winds 8-15 mph with gusts to 21 mph in the late morning & afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.	Mostly cloudy. Scattered thunderstorms in the evening... then scattered rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.	Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon. South winds 15-20 mph with higher gusts in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.
		
Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 29 to 39. South winds around 15 mph. Chance of thunderstorms 40 percent. Friday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 62. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Friday Night: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Lows 25 to 38. Saturday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 69. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent.		
Prepared using NWS data from http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=WYZ001 and http://www.crh.noaa.gov/rw/?n=ynp_gtnp		

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday May 28, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Thank you for your help in reducing the frequency of these incidents.

Kerry Gunther - Bear Management Office

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- No construction delays or closures Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27.
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Look for Road Construction updates on Yellowstone's web site and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction>.

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Website: <http://www.personalbest.com/PersonalBest4U/View-Issue.aspx?issue=582>

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Heartsaver First Aid and CPR Sign-Up at P:\[Safety](#) Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **(Canyon Visitor Center conference room)**

YELL's summer road construction information can be found on Yellowstone's web site (soon), the park newspaper, and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction Schedule>. These projects are made possible through the Surface Transportation Bill; *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)*.

IN THE NEWS

Cause of death remains a mystery for bison found dead in river

Chronicle Staff Tuesday, May 28, 2013 10:12 am

Laboratory tests have ruled out catarrhal fever as the cause of death for the first of three bison found dead in the Yellowstone River over the past two weeks.

The exact cause of death could not be determined from the tissue samples taken by Fish, Wildlife and Parks employees, the agency said in a written statement Tuesday.

The lab tests found no sign of disease, and the only abnormality FWP veterinarian Jennifer Ramsey could find on the carcass was trauma to the animal's pelvis.

Since the carcass was reported found May 16 near Emigrant, two other bison have been found dead in the river near Gardiner. Ramsey said one of those bison had broken ribs, and the other had a fractured pelvis. Ramsey said the injuries happened before the animals' deaths.

Test results on the two Gardiner-area bison are expected to be complete in another week or two. Given the recent reintroduction of domestic sheep in the Gardiner area, FWP looked into catarrhal fever as a possible cause of death. Malignant catarrhal fever is a virus that can be carried by domestic sheep without showing any symptoms, but the disease can cause fatal infections in bison.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 1025 AM MDT TUE MAY 28 2013

Today: Scattered rain showers late in the morning. Isolated thunderstorms through the day. Numerous rain showers in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail late in the morning. Some thunderstorms may produce small hail in the afternoon. Highs 47 to 53. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight: Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Numerous rain showers through the night. Numerous snow showers and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce small hail early in the evening. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 30 to 36. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday: Numerous snow showers and rain showers in the morning... Then numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 43 to 49. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Wednesday Night: Cloudy. Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers and rain showers after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 3 inches. Lows 29 to 35. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday: Cloudy with scattered snow showers and rain showers. Highs 40 to 46. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Cloudy with scattered rain showers and snow showers. Lows 28 to 34. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

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Wednesday May 29, 2013

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... and they will not fit any printer but the one they were purchased for. And there is only one printer like this here in Yellowstone. If you have these (and you may have had them for a while now, so please check your storage areas), could you please return them to CSS? Thanks!

Cartridge Numbers are: CE260A, CE261A, CE262A, and CE263A.

Starting May 28: Roosevelt Jct. to Tower Fall road project is OPEN daily, 7 AM-11 PM only.

- 30 minute delays are possible.

- Closed nightly 11 PM – 7 AM.
- Expect gravel road surface all summer.
- Use CAUTION when driving.

Look for Road Construction updates on Yellowstone's web site and at <P:\Road Updates\2013 Road Construction>.

With the nice weather and kids getting out of school, we should expect to see more of them on the streets throughout Mammoth during the weekdays. Please keep this in mind as you drive around Mammoth for both personal and work reasons. Be watchful of blind areas, corners, etc., and keep your speed at or below that which is posted.

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✓Have you checked your fire extinguisher lately?

Hello all YNP residents! When was the last time you took a look at the fire extinguisher provided in your park residence? This is just a friendly reminder from Mark Gleason of the Yellowstone Fire Department to:

- ✓ locate your fire extinguisher,
- ✓ make sure it's hung/mounted on the wall in an accessible place, and
- ✓ to inspect it monthly.

If you need any assistance with an extinguisher in your residence please contact a Yellowstone NP Fire Department Office and we will do our best to help you.

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- No construction delays or closures Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27.
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Yellowstone National Park Fire Dept. Annual Fire Extinguisher Training



Hey YNP employees, it's time to kick off spring training with some *hands-on* fire extinguisher training!

Learn:

- about the different types of extinguishers,
- how to select the right extinguisher for the job, and
- how to safely operate the extinguishers you find in the work place or in your home, to put out an incipient stage fire.

Weekly trainings will be held at both the Lake and Canyon Fire Stations.

We also have the ability to provide mobile training for employees at the Norris and East Entrances.

**** Please contact Mark Gleason 307 344-7135 for times and locations. ****

(An alternative for anyone is to use the DOI Learn for your annual certification. DOI Learn course can be found by a course catalog search for NPS Annual Fire Extinguisher Education.)

Collecting plastic? Plastic retail bags, that you don't plan to reuse, can be packed together into one bag and dropped into the bin for recycling of PLASTIC CONTAINERS. This includes; produce bags, newspaper bags, bread bags, case wrapping (from a case of snacks or beverages), air pillows (packing), and the plastic wrap from napkins, paper towel, bathroom tissue and diapers. Please recycle only clean, dry and empty plastic bags, film and wrap.

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Heartsaver First Aid and CPR Sign-Up at P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (**Canyon Visitor Center conference room**)

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 634 AM MDT WED MAY 29 2013

Today: Widespread rain showers in the morning. Widespread snow showers through the day. Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail early in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 4 inches. Highs 43 to 49. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Tonight: Cloudy. Numerous rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers after midnight. Scattered snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 8 inches. Lows 29 to 35. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday: Cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 41 to 47. West winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow showers in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Lows 27 to 33. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday: Cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 43 to 49. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers and slight chance of rain showers in the evening...then slight chance of snow showers after midnight. Lows 28 to 34. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday May 30, 2013

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY:

Brown Bag Lunch Seminar: **The Devil is in the Details - Environmental Conservation, Local Context and the Role for Social Science in the Florida Everglades and Beyond**

When: Thursday, May 30, 2013 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Yellowstone Center for Resources (YCR) Conference Room

Who: Dr. Rebecca Garvoille, Yellowstone Social Scientist

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Spring Elk Calving Season Safety Reminder

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ARE YOU A RUNNER, JOGGER, RALKER (walker/runner)?? Sageleapers Running Club is open to all levels of runners. We have at least one organized trail run per week in the summer and sign up for group runs all over the surrounding states. We run all year, and in most weather conditions. If you are interested in joining in on the runs- you can stay updated on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/410282739037425/> If you plan on attending any of the runs we ask that you post a comment on FB announcement so that we know who will be coming along. Runs take place in and out of the park so that our furry friends can join us on some runs as well. If you are not on Facebook, please contact Carrie Lang and ask to be on the email list carrie_lang@nps.gov.

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June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **(Canyon Visitor Center conference room)**

IN THE NEWS**Scientists, Yellowstone managers to review research about Old Faithful geothermal system**

By Associated Press, Updated: Thursday, May 30, 9:25 AM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Geyser experts plan to spend three days in Yellowstone next week pooling their knowledge about the Old Faithful area's geology to help guide future decisions about construction in the park's most popular destination.

Old Faithful is by far the most famous geyser, but only one of at least 150 in the Upper Geyser Basin, the world's most active geyser basin.

Geysers are sensitive to digging and other ground interference, human-caused or natural. Yet scientists still don't know as much as they'd like to about the Upper Geyser Basin's underground fissures and chambers soaked by water superheated by the massive Yellowstone volcano.

Throw in the massive numbers of people who visit Yellowstone each year — more than 3 million, an estimated 90 percent of who visit Old Faithful — and park managers face a challenge in meeting their needs while protecting the park's thermal features, park geologist Hank Heasler said Wednesday.

“What is the sensitivity of the hydrothermal system at Old Faithful with respect to the development that currently exists, has existed in the past, and may exist in the future?” Heasler said. “The understanding of the hydrothermal system is in some ways is very complete, but in other ways is in its infancy.”

No big projects are in the works near Old Faithful right now except a dormitory building for park employees. The start of that project is still at least a year off, park spokesman Dan Hottle said.

The scientists plan to meet Monday through Wednesday at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. They will present to one another and park managers and the highly technical sessions will be open to any curious tourists who want to listen in.

The half-dozen scientist participants will include Jake Lowenstern, scientist in charge at the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, and Duncan Foley, chairman of the Geology Department at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash.

The scientists plan to release a summary report in September that will serve as a reference guide for future infrastructure projects. The report will focus on the top 10 feet or so of the Upper Geyser Basin's geology.

“That's where your water lines and sewer lines go. That's where your building foundations go,” Heasler said.

Heasler said he'll be interested in seeing how much the scientists know about how water flows beneath the geyser basin.

Unlike other scientific review panels convened in Yellowstone, such as panels that tackled the tough problem of Yellowstone Lake's invasive lake trout population, the Upper Geyser Basin panel won't make recommendations.

“It's time to take another look. It's been awhile,” Hottle said.

In fact, Heasler said he couldn't recall the last time a scientific panel had been convened just to look at the basin's geology.

“Are there certain areas that are more sensitive than others, or should there be additional studies?” Heasler said. “This is a wide-open questioning of what is known about the system. And an important component of that is what is not known.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 603 AM MDT THU MAY 30 2013

Today: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning. Chance of rain showers. Isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 41 to 47. West winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms early in the evening. Chance of rain showers in the evening. Scattered snow showers through the night. Lows 25 to 31. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers and snow showers in the morning...then chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 44 to 50. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers in the evening...then slight chance of rain showers and snow showers after midnight. Lows 29 to 35. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Saturday: Not as cool. Partly cloudy. Highs 54 to 60.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 31 to 37.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 63. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Chance of rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then slight chance of rain showers... Snow showers and isolated thunderstorms after midnight. Lows 32 to 38. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Friday May 31, 2013

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Are you a full time term or permanent employee? Have you taken the commuter survey yet? If you haven't, don't delay...take the Yellowstone employee commuter survey today!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YELLCommute>

Please help the Green Team gather information regarding your commute to work each day. Long or short, each commuter survey has important information needed by the Green Team in their efforts to become a Climate Friendly Park. Thanks to the 31.5% of the park's employees who have already taken the survey! We need at least 75% of our employees to take the survey in order for the surveys to count, so please take just a few minutes to answer the 8 easy questions, or call Bianca if you'd like a paper copy. Thanks to everyone for your help!

Collecting plastic? Plastic retail bags, that you don't plan to reuse, can be packed together into one bag and dropped into the bin for recycling of PLASTIC CONTAINERS. This includes; produce bags, newspaper bags, bread bags, case wrapping (from a case of snacks or beverages), air pillows (packing), and the plastic wrap from napkins, paper towel, bathroom tissue and diapers. Please recycle only clean, dry and empty plastic bags, film and wrap.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR training is available. Please sign up on the P drive at location listed below. Pick up a study guide from the Supply Center prior to the class and bring the booklet with you to the class. If there is interest in a class at a different time or location, please contact Juanita Bueter at 406-224-2629.

Heartsaver First Aid and CPR_Sign-Up at P:\[Safety](#) Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2013 First Aid and CPR sign Up\First Aid and CPR)

June 13, 2013 (Thursday) 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **(Canyon Visitor Center conference room)**

WEATHER**NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park**

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 625 AM MDT FRI MAY 31 2013

Rest Of Today: Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning. Chance of rain showers early in the morning. Highs 42 to 48. West winds around 15 mph early in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Chance of rain showers and snow showers early in the evening...then slight chance of rain showers late in the evening. Slight chance of snow showers in the late evening and early morning. Lows 28 to 34. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Saturday: Not as cool. Sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 53 to 59.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 31 to 37.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 63. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then slight chance of thunderstorms and snow showers after midnight. Lows 33 to 39. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

Have something to share with other NPS employees in the park? We're especially interested in items occurring outside Mammoth, and in getting digital photos of employees at work! Please remember to send your text or photo submissions for the newsletter to us at YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov (not individual's email), so that whoever is doing the newsletter that day has access to it. Thanks!

Back issues of the newsletter are available at [P:\YNP@Work Published Issues](#)