

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, February 3, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**THANK YOU FOR
NOT IDLING**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Idling more than **10 seconds** uses more fuel than restarting your car.
- Driving your car warms it up faster than idling.
- Restarting your car is less harmful to your vehicle than idling.
- Idling a car wastes about 0.3 gal/hour and a big truck about 1 gal/hour.
- Each gallon of fuel burned emits about 20 lb. of carbon dioxide.
- Engine exhaust contains more than 40 pollutants that worsen asthma and allergies.
- Idling gets you nowhere!

www.ytcleanenergy.org



Decals for your government vehicle are available from the Green Team. Be idle aware!



Susan Salmons is retiring. Our fearless weed killer and Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team liaison is heading off to Alaska! Come bid her farewell and safe travels on **February 6th at 3 p.m. in the YCR conference room.**

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Remember to submit your completed Wellness Incentive Program for the month of January to Stacey Gunther by February 5th. This month 3 Bridger Bowl Ski Coupons will be included among the awards this month's winners may select from.

Full Wellness Incentive Program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. All employees are encouraged to participate.

EMPLOYEE RECREATION – UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**Seminar: A Slideshow of Travel in Grenada, Baja Mexico and Florida**

Thursday, February 6th – 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room located beside the Mammoth Recreation Hall

Join Doug and Joanne MacCartney as they share stories and slides of their most recent travels including the Everglades and much more!

Pick-up Volleyball is every Thursday night at 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Co-ed and open to players of all abilities. Join the fun!

Employee Photo Contest Deadline

Monday, February 10th – 5:00 pm in the Parkwide Recreation Office

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 PM FOR CONSIDERATION. Enter photos you have taken this winter in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Categories: People, Wildlife and Scenic. Entries will be displayed for employee judging in the Mammoth EDR on Thursday, February 13th during lunchtime. Cash prizes awarded. Entry forms are available on the bulletin board outside the Parkwide Recreation Office.

History Seminar – Yellowstone From the Back of a Postcard Presented by Ruth Quinn

Tuesday, February 11th – 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room located beside the Mammoth Recreation Hall

Explore Yellowstone through historic postcards as Ruth shares her collection of more than 3000. See what photographic images, postmarks, and messages home can reveal.

Upcoming CPR classes!

Health Care Provider CPR is the class for First Responders, Emergency Medical Technicians, Park Medics and Paramedics.

Date/Time: **TOMORROW** Time: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Mammoth EMS Classroom

Heartsaver CPR is the class for community members and the lay person.

Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Lake Mess Hall

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)

Annual MCC Chili cook-off and sledding party is happening **Feb. 11th @ 6 pm**. \$5 entry fee; prizes; fun!

More info: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>

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Please mark your calendars! On March 29th, there will be a retirement party in West Yellowstone for Bonnie Whitman.

The flyer with details is coming soon.

In the meantime, any of you that have pictures of Bonnie that you would like to share, please send them electronically to Tara Ross. Especially if you have any from other parks besides Yellowstone (DEWA, PEFO, GRCA, Prince William, Fire Island), or from searches/trainings you may have been on with Bonnie, etc.

For questions, you can send an email to Tara_Ross@nps.gov or call at 406-581-1644 or 307-344-2881.

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IN THE NEWS

Researchers work to gauge park's changing climate

Published: Thu, 01/30/2014 - 3:56pm Natalie Storey -Livingston Enterprise Staff Writer

Researchers working in Yellowstone National Park's one-and-a-half-year-old Climate Change Program say they've found evidence the park's climate is changing, and many of the most concerning changes are related to warmer winters.

Data from Yellowstone Park shows fewer nights below freezing, more days above 80 degrees, shorter winters, longer growing seasons, reduced snowpack and earlier runoff, said Ann Rodman, branch chief for Climate and Physical Resources. A vital signs report about the health of the park released in December identified climate change as a key ecosystem driver in the park.

"We are still really asking the question, 'What's the effect?'" Rodman said. "We are still trying to figure out what's happening to the plants and animals."

In the 1980s, a weather station near Sylvan Lake showed about 300 days during which the temperature dropped below freezing, Rodman said.

Her examination of data from the last 30 years shows there are now only 240 days during which the temperature drops below freezing at the same station. The same trend is seen at stations throughout the Greater Yellowstone Area. Data from south of Bozeman near Lick Creek and Shower Falls also shows fewer days below freezing. Both locations have 90 fewer days below freezing compared to 30 years ago, Rodman said.

The growing season on the Northern Range in the park is about 30 days longer now than 50 years ago, Rodman said.

Data from the Northeast Entrance shows a 30 percent reduction in snowpack since 1968. There are 35 fewer days a year with snow at the Northeast Entrance than 45 years ago.

"The amount of time it takes (snow) to melt is shorter and shorter," Rodman said. "Once the snow starts to melt, it is melting more quickly."

In addition, peak river flows are occurring earlier, Rodman said.

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Bart Melton, program manager for the Yellowstone field office of the National Parks Conservation Association, said his group and others have been lobbying the National Park Service to take climate change seriously and make plans for the future. He said Yellowstone is moving in the right direction by trying to understand how global trends will impact the region.

“Our organizational strategy has been largely focused on climate adaptation and planning relevant to that adaptation,” Melton said. “What that comes down to is understanding the needs at a local level. In recent years the agencies have focused on understanding localized impacts, which is really key.”

Melton said some of the “worst case scenarios” for Yellowstone predicted by climate models include a significant reduction in forest in Yellowstone, with a conversion of the landscape to more of a sagebrush environment.

“It’s easy to look at Yellowstone and say, ‘This is the core of a massive ecosystem what could really change so severely that it could impact this place and cause such changes,’” Melton said. “The key is that it’s all the impacts combined that will change the landscape.”

When she was first assigned to coordinate Yellowstone’s climate change research, Rodman spent a great deal of time trying to figure out how predictive models for climate change that are generated by computers might apply to Yellowstone. Then she realized changes were already happening and decided to shift focus. Now researchers are concentrating on which trends are already apparent and what that might mean for the future of the park.

“I thought we should start with real data, look at things that have already happened and see what trajectory we are on,” she said. “That’s when I started to realize this isn’t something that’s going to happen in the future. It’s happening to us now.”

The task before Rodman and her colleagues was daunting. While people often talk about climate change by referencing single weather incidents or one odd year, Rodman said to analyze climate trends decades of data must be considered. Yellowstone has many weather stations, including the oldest weather station in Wyoming at Mammoth Hot Springs, but they are subject to some human error and missing data.

In addition, she said what’s happening with the local climate can be influenced by climate drivers, such as atmospheric circulation, solar sun spots, ocean circulation and other factors humans don’t entirely understand.

It’s clear, however, that the Western United States, which already has a more arid climate, will disproportionately feel the effects of climate change, Rodman said. A United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, written by 259 authors in 2013, found the globe has warmed an average 1.5 degrees in the last 100 years, while the western United States has warmed more than 2 degrees.

“The West is changing faster than other parts of the United States,” Rodman said. “It’s unprecedented, this much change that fast. We should be paying attention to this.”

Read More: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/researchers-work-gauge-park%E2%80%99s-changing-climate>

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'Amazing': Yellowstone Expeditions guides campers in heart of park in winter

February 02, 2014 1:15 am • Story and photos By Lloyd Blunk Billings Gazette

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — A zephyr lifted ice crystals from the tops of snow-covered fir trees growing up the southern slope of Dunraven Peak in Yellowstone National Park. As the millions of crystals floated

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above the dense stand of trees, the warm light from the low-hanging January sun caught the crystals and seemed to transform them into gold dust particles that glittered the clear blue sky.

“Amazing,” Audrey Gehlhausen, a three-year guide for Yellowstone Expeditions, said before skiing on through the dense trees and powder.

When you talk to people who have spent time in Yellowstone National Park during the winter, they often use words like “amazing,” “wondrous” and “magical.”

Yellowstone Expeditions owner Arden Bailey has been guiding people into the park from West Yellowstone during the winter for 31 years. He operates the only tent-camping company in operation in Yellowstone.

One of the reasons he continues to guide is his guest’s reactions to winter in the park.

“We get to remember how exciting Yellowstone was for the first time ... day in and day out by vicariously experiencing Yellowstone for the first time often through our guest’s eyes,” Bailey said.

Setting up camp

During the late 1970s, Bailey worked in the park driving the bombardier-style snow coaches out of the Old Faithful area. During the tours, guests would often marvel at the quality of the snow and express a desire to ski the terrain.

“There was no way for them to do that in those years, so I kept thinking ... there’s got to be some niche for me,” Bailey said.

Bailey’s solution was a tent-camping company similar to those in the park in the 1800s before the hotels were built.

In 1983, after getting a permit from the National Park Service and purchasing two of his own bombardier snow coaches, Bailey set up a base camp in a small meadow encircled by snow-covered evergreens, one-half mile from the Grand Canyon and the falls of the Yellowstone River. His first year, the base camp consisted of a single hexagonal dining tent and five sleeping huts. Bailey has guided backcountry skiers into the heart of the park from this location ever since.

While the thought of camping in freezing temperatures might seem daunting to most, Bailey tries to make his camp as cozy and warm as possible. At its centerpiece is two large yurts. One acts as the kitchen and the other as a common area and dining hall. Warmed by an old-fashioned wood stove, the dining yurt is where many guests spend much of their waking camp time. Family-style breakfasts and dinners are cooked up, served and shared with the guests by the camp’s guides.

Bailey designed the sleeping quarters to be similar to ice-fishing huts that he used growing up in Minnesota. The plywood and canvas constructions remain warm through the coldest of nights thanks to thermostat-controlled propane heaters.

If guests still finds themselves chilled to the bone, the camp also offers a sauna, which can get as hot as 200 degrees.

“All (the guests) have to do is bring their own clothing and sense of humor and adventure,” Bailey said.

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That statement proved to be partially inaccurate.

Ailey Crow, of Redwood City, Calif., wanted an “adventure” before settling into her new career as a data scientist. When she arrived at Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, she learned that her luggage had been lost in transit. She purchased a few items in Bozeman, but she lacked some essentials to stay warm while in Yellowstone.

Erica Hutchings, Yellowstone Expeditions office manager and guide, lent Crow her personal windbreaker, a wool sweater, polypropylene shirt, ski pants, a couple of cotton T-shirts, baggy cotton sweatpants for sleeping, and socks.

Despite the aggravation of losing her luggage, Crow burst into the dining yurt after her first day skiing and announced, “I was smiling so much my teeth were cold.”

Many of Yellowstone Expeditions’ guides have degrees in fields such biology and geology, and can answer guests’ questions about the park’s terrain and wildlife.

While the guides’ ability to navigate the backcountry impressed the guests, their positive attitudes in camp completed the overall experience. The guides’ humorous stories during dinner and willingness to make sure that every guest’s needs were taken of, created an open, welcoming environment that one might not expect while camping with strangers. Although the camp describes the dinners as ‘family-style,’ the evening experience often felt like a casual dinner party with friends.

“I think that all of my guides share this desire to bring people to Yellowstone and help them experience the park,” Bailey said.

Although Yellowstone Expeditions primarily caters to skiers, Yellowstone Expeditions guests often include photographers and other tourists who want to immerse themselves in the winter experience, including film crews for BBC and National Geographic. Guests can forgo the skiing for snow coach tours. Bailey and his guides’ years of experience in the park provide an optimum chance for viewing some of the park’s incredible wildlife and natural phenomena.

‘A giant peace sign’

One morning, when the the small thermometer outside of the dining yurt read 15 below zero, Bailey suggested that the guests delay their ski excursion for the morning in order to travel to the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Bailey suspected that the conditions were right for the canyon’s illusive ‘beam’ to make an appearance.

The beam is an atmospheric phenomena that occurs as the sun rises and its light reflects off the crystals that form from the mists off the falls. The temperature needs to be at just the right spot in order for the ice crystals to form into the proper shape necessary to create the effect. A few degrees too hot or too cold and the beam will not form.

Bailey decided to scout ahead while the guests prepared for the day.

When he first arrived at the canyon, the beam was nowhere to be seen. Bailey ventured out onto the canyon overlooks to find the beam. On the final outlook, the beam had still not made an appearance. Bailey turned around to head back to the snow coach to radio in his findings. While on the trail back, Bailey stopped.

“There it is. It is not very visible today, but there it is,” he said.

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A glowing column slowly began to form over the canyon. As Bailey's guests arrived the beam grew larger and brighter. It finally was encompassed by a sun dog.

"It's like a giant peace sign," Yellowstone Expeditions guest Leslie Dierauf said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/amazing-yellowstone-expeditions-guides-campers-in-heart-of-park-in/article_3a5d33d0-bf83-5bf7-b12f-a7cf151b394d.html#ixzz2sH6nkcQE

Yellowstone's Giantess Geyser erupts after 2.5-year hiatus

January 31, 2014 3:00 pm • By Janet White Billings Gazette/yellowstonegate.com

"Giantess Geyser 14:55 ie."

That was a text message that went out Wednesday to alert geyser enthusiasts that Giantess Geyser in Yellowstone National Park was in eruption ("ie"), setting off a frantic scramble among geyser gazers to go online and watch part of the rare and lengthy eruption.

Giantess Geyser had burst to life again after two years, 139 days and 12 minutes of silence. This was big news for geyser gazers.

Normally, Giantess erupts once or twice each year, so the latest two and a half-year pause was a record. Giantess eruptions can be heard a mile away and can last more than a day.

On Wednesday afternoon, the online chat room for the live-streaming webcam pointed at Old Faithful and other geysers in the Upper Geyser Basin quickly filled with people excited about news of Giantess. The first hour and a half of the Giantess eruption can be watched online.

Giantess Geyser is one of Yellowstone's largest geysers, with initial bursts reaching 200 feet. It can show four types of eruptions: water, steam, mixed and aborted.

All four start with a bang.

Giantess Geyser is one of the few geysers in the park that register on seismographs, conveniently providing an accurate start time.

— Water eruptions send up jets of water lasting from 24 to 48 hours with possible pauses between series of bursts (a 1938 report states they recurred every 20 to 30 minutes).

— Steam eruptions send up jets of water for the first 30 to 45 minutes of the eruption, then shifting to a strong and powerful steam phase that can be heard for up to a mile away. These eruptions last for about 12 hours.

— Mixed eruptions follow the same pattern as steam eruptions until about three to six hours into the eruptions, when they shift back to water, sending up more jets. These mixed-phase eruptions will continue for 24-48 hours with possible pauses between series of bursts, and may shift back and forth between steam and water.

— Aborted eruptions also start with jets of water, but are much weaker and end after one to six hours. These haven't been seen since the 1983 Borah Peak earthquake in Alaska that sent energy waves that affected and changed some of Yellowstone's hydrothermal systems.

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This week's Giantess eruption seems to be a mixed eruption with series of outbursts happening about every 40 to 60 minutes, still sputtering Friday morning, more than 40 hours since it started.

Giantess has been observed by people and instruments year-round since about 1920 except possibly during World War II. Its most recent dormant interval of 2.4 years appears to be the longest one in the last century.

Giantess is known to be linked to many, if not most of the thermal features on Geyser Hill, the crowded and active area surrounding Old Faithful. Most closely related is nearby Vault Geyser, which erupts anywhere from one to eight hours after Giantess starts.

Other springs may show rare "sympathetic eruptions" when Giantess is active, including Ear Spring, located on the opposite side of Geyser Hill from Giantess.

Ear Spring normally just bubbles and sizzles around the edge. But during Giantess eruptions, the water in Ear Spring has been documented to surge 1 to 2 feet and vastly increase its flow.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-s-giantess-geyser-erupts-after--year-hiatus/article_ac5b8e79-0d16-581a-bf4b-0ef1239ca514.html#ixzz2sH8TutIl

WEATHER

Winter Weather Advisory from 1PM today until 11AM Tuesday for NW Wyoming including Yellowstone for 5-8 inches of new snow <http://go.usa.gov/BDqz>

Winter Weather Advisory in effect until 11PM tonight for SW Montana including West Yellowstone, Bozeman and Bozeman Pass Forecast for 2-4 inches of new snow at lower elevations and 4-7 inches in the mountains <http://go.usa.gov/BDcT>

Winter Weather Advisory in effect until midnight Tuesday for Paradise Valley and Livingston for 3-5 inches of new snow and cold wind chill temperatures <http://go.usa.gov/BDc9>

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 636 AM MST MON FEB 3 2014

Today: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then snow likely early in the afternoon. Snow early in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 13 to 19. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 4 below to 10 below zero. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tuesday: Colder. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 8 inches. Highs zero to 6 above zero. Chance of snow 70 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 17 below to 27 below zero in the morning.

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Tuesday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 11 below to 17 below zero.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 3 below to 3 above zero. Chance of snow 40 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 17 below to 27 below zero until late afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 16 below to 22 below zero. Wind chill readings 31 below to 41 below zero.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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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A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 4, 2014

January 30, 2014

Memorandum

To: All Employees
From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park
Subject: Implementation of the Non-Commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program

As you may know, the park is developing a Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program (N-CGSAP) that will be implemented in time for the winter 2014/2015 season. This program, which is authorized under the 2013 Final Rule for winter use, will allow one group of up to five non-commercially guided snowmobiles to enter through each of the park's four oversnow entrances every day. These groups will be able to set their own itinerary and travel at their own pace under the lead of a non-commercial guide.

There are two components to the N-CGSAP; a lottery system that will be administered through recreation.gov and an online education program that will be used to train all snowmobile operators participating in non-commercially guided snowmobile trips into Yellowstone. Additionally, all non-commercially guided groups will be provided with maps, checklists for gear and first aid supplies, and will be required to check in with gate personnel.

I am personally requesting that you consider providing us feedback and insight on elements that should be addressed within the N-CGSAP Education Program and lottery. Examples of things already under consideration include:

- Necessity of additional signage to warming huts, ranger stations, etc.
- Providing accurate cell phone coverage maps
- Timely road condition updates
- Key phone numbers
- Speed limits and idling times
- Wildlife jams

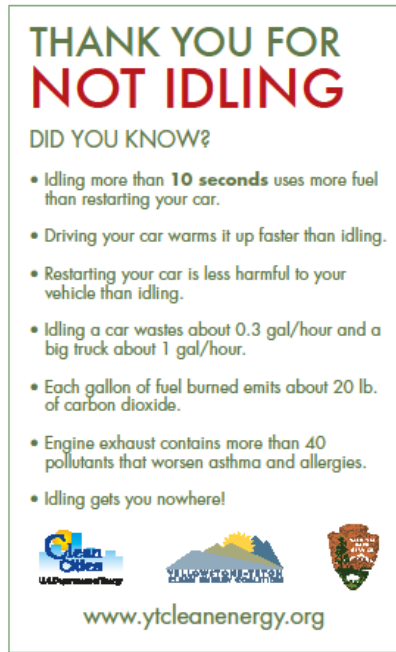
Your insight and advice is critical to the development of this program. What do you think we need to think about as we develop both the lottery system and educational program?

Please email your thoughts to Alicia Murphy at alicia_murphy@nps.gov or call her x2627 about your ideas by Friday, February 7, 2014.

Thanks for your help.

Daniel N. Wenk

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 816 AM MST TUE FEB 4 2014

Rest Of Today: Areas of fog through the day. Snow. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 4 inches. Highs 3 below to 5 above zero. Chance of snow 80 percent. Wind chill readings 21 below to 31 below zero.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy until early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of fog early in the evening. Chance of snow in the evening. Slight chance of snow after midnight...then chance of snow early in the morning. Lows 13 below to 19 below zero. Chance of snow 30 percent.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy with slight chance of snow in the morning...then mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 6 below to zero. Chance of snow 40 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 24 below to 34 below zero in the morning.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 17 below to 23 below zero.

Thursday: Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 1 to 7. Lowest wind chill readings 30 below to 40 below zero in the morning.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 9 below to 17 below zero.

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January 30, 2014

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- Timely road condition updates
- Key phone numbers
- Speed limits and idling times
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Please email your thoughts to Alicia Murphy at alicia_murphy@nps.gov or call her x2627 about your ideas by Friday, February 7, 2014.

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It is too early in the year to complete FISSA training. If you do complete it now, you will more than likely have to take it again in March or later in the year. CSS will announce when annual FISSA training is ready. Thanks.

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Upcoming CPR classes!



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Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Lake Mess Hall

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Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)



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The flyer with details is coming soon.

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For questions, you can send an email to Tara_Ross@nps.gov or call at 406-581-1644 or 307-344-2881.

IN THE NEWS

Bears, eagles, seals: How endangered animals fare

16 hours ago • Associated Press

The U.S. government has spent billions of dollars trying to save more than 1,500 animal and plant species listed as endangered or threatened.

A group of House Republicans say that's translated into just 2 percent of protected species taken off the list. They called Tuesday for an overhaul to the 1973 Endangered Species Act, giving states more authority over imperiled species and limiting litigation from wildlife advocates.

Here's a look at five species and how they've fared since being added to the list:

Grizzly bear

Grizzlies were listed as threatened in the Lower 48 states in 1975 after being nearly wiped out over their historical range. But the bruins have been coming back, particularly in and around Yellowstone National Park, where they number more than 700. They're doing so well, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering removing federal protections for the Yellowstone grizzlies in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. But some scientists warn against it, saying climate change has devastated the whitebark pine trees that provide a key food source for the bears. Another 1,000 grizzlies live outside of the Yellowstone area, while 30,000 of the bears in Alaska have never been listed as threatened.

Gray wolf

More than 6,000 gray wolves roam the Lower 48 states after they were wiped out in the Northern Rockies and only a small population was left in the Great Lakes by the mid-1990s. The federal government spent more than \$100 million on wolf recovery, and the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed removing the predator from the endangered list across the United States, except for a small population of wolves in the Southwest. Yet despite the rebound, environmentalists point out the drop in wolf numbers in the Northern Rockies after Congress lifted federal protections there in 2011. Since then, wolf population numbers have declined 7 percent because of new hunting and trapping seasons in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

Spotted owl

The northern spotted owl was listed as threatened in 1990 because of loss of old-growth forest habitat to logging. Lawsuits led to establishment of millions of acres of reserves on national forests to protect not just the owl's habitat, but that of threatened salmon and a host of other species. Despite the logging cutbacks, the owl has continued to decline by about 3 percent a year. Scientists have now identified the top threat to its survival as the invasion of the barred owl, a more aggressive and adaptable cousin that migrated across Canada from the East Coast and is driving spotted owls out of their territories. Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began an experiment to remove up to 3,600 invasive barred owls from Oregon, Washington and Northern California to see if that will provide enough havens to reverse the decline.

Bald eagle

The official symbol of the United States nearly became extinct through hunting and the widespread use of the pesticide DDT. In 1963, there were just 417 of the birds documented in the nation. More than \$574 million was spent on the eagle's recovery through 2007, the year its numbers reached about 10,000 mating pairs in the Lower 48 states and it was taken off the list. It is still illegal to kill a bald eagle under a 1940 law passed by Congress. The Fish and Wildlife Service says the bald eagle is now known or believed to be in all Lower 48 states, along with Alaska, where it was never considered threatened.

Caribbean monk seal

In contrast with success stories like the bald eagle, some species protected through the act go extinct anyway. The Caribbean monk seal, which once swam the waters off Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, was taken off the endangered species list in 2008 due to extinction. The only subtropical seal native to the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico once numbered more than 250,000, but overhunting left the population unstable. The last confirmed sighting was in 1952.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/bears-eagles-seals-how-endangered-animals-fare/article_0057fc39-c9a7-5440-9418-e3907b56b6f0.html#ixzz2sSgmsrSq

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Dreyer gets athletic, academic scholarships

Published: Tue, 02/04/2014 - 5:00pm Anthony Varriano – Livingston Enterprise



Gardiner High School senior Austin Dreyer has accepted athletic and academic scholarships from Rocky Mountain College in Billings amounting to \$13,250 for his freshman year.

“I start out with a half scholarship of \$2,250, and then it will increase up to \$5,000,” Dreyer said, but he also received an \$11,000 academic scholarship, which will cover more than half of his tuition each year, according to Rocky Mountain College website.

Dreyer was also offered a \$10,000 academic scholarship from Carroll as well, but decided to attend Rocky because it was smaller and closer to family.

“I liked that it was small and really related well to our high school, so it won’t be that much of a change,” Dreyer said. “It’s only three hours (from home), and I also have family in Billings, and they said I could always come over to their house and relax there.”

Dreyer will be coached by Alan King in both cross country and track. King has been with Rocky for seven years, and has coached 16 national qualifiers in cross country and 19 national qualifiers in track.

“I think he’s ready to help prepare me to go to nationals in cross country,” Dreyer said.

Dreyer is planning to become a physician’s assistant, and could complete his entire six-year program at Rocky and work as an intern in the Billings hospital.

Dreyer’s family stands by his decision, as do his coaches in Gardiner.

“They were really supportive of it, along with my coach Featherman and our other coach, Stacy,” he said.

Dreyer will make the trip to Billings in late August and start school Aug. 27.

Read More: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/dreyer-gets-athletic-academic-scholarships>

Gardiner boys get two district wins; girls win one of two

Published: Mon, 02/03/2014 - 5:00pm



Gardiner senior Connor Wines looks to pass the ball in the first half against the Harrison Wildcats in Gardiner, Saturday night.

The Gardiner boys basketball team got two big district wins over the weekend in Lone Peak, Friday and against Harrison, Saturday.

“Overall, we had a good weekend,” said Gardiner head coach Jordan Featherman. “Anytime you go 2-0 in this district, you have to be pleased.”

The Bruins used a strong defensive performance in the third quarter to pull away from a tough Harrison team, winning 57-48 in Gardiner, Saturday.

The Bruins went into halftime tied at 31, but held the Wildcats to just two points in the third quarter to take a 10-point lead into the fourth.

Gardiner didn't quit, either. Eddie Rodarte nabbed a steal and scored on a fast break to open up the fourth quarter. The lead remained 12 until senior Parker Robinson hit a three to make it 52-37.

Rodarte and Robinson both had eight points in the win, and senior Connor Wines had a huge night with 21 points. He was dominant in the paint and off the dribble.

Nolan Darr added nine points and hit a big three off a baseline inbounds play when the Gardiner lead was down to four.

The Lady Bruins didn't have much luck against the Lady Wildcats, though. They had trouble scoring and fell 32-27.

"In a defensive struggle, when they shoot a better percentage, they're going to win the game," Gardiner head coach Ben Johnson said.



Gardiner center Hannah Dean drives past a Harrison Wildcat defender in the first half in Gardiner, Saturday night

The Lady Bruins' struggles were apparent in the first half. They scored just seven points to the Wildcats' 14, and not much changed in the second. Gardiner managed just five points in the third quarter before making a run in the fourth, but they couldn't close the gap.

"We did penetrate with the dribble and use the baseline to get open looks, but the shots just weren't falling," Johnson explained.

Hannah Dean had 14 points to lead the Lady Bruins.

The Gardiner girls did get a district win over Lone Peak in Big Sky, Friday, 54-34.

Dean had 17 points, eight boards and five assists, while senior Kelly Harbach added 13 points, seven boards and five steals in the win. Harbach shot the lights out, hitting six of her nine from the field.

The Gardiner boys edged the Big Horns in a nail-biter on Friday, 55-51.

The Bruins went cold in the fourth quarter, scoring just eight points to Lone Peak's 19, but they held on to the win with great defensive play in the second and third quarters, holding the Big Horns to just nine.

Wines scored 21 again, which he's been averaging over the last four games, while shooting 60 percent from the floor.

Nick Sabo added a double-double with 12 points and 10 boards. He also had four steals and four assists.

Rodarte just missed a double-double with nine points and 13 boards. Darr was a dishing machine with seven assists, but grabbed seven rebounds and scored eight points to show off his all-around game.

Gardiner has a big district game against White Sulphur Springs after hosting non-district Whitehall, Tuesday. The girls tip at 5:30 and the boys at 7 p.m.

Read More: http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/gardiner-boys-get-two-district-wins-girls-win-one-two?cookie_check=1

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 649 AM MST WED FEB 5 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy. Patchy fog through the day. Slight chance of snow late in the morning. Chance of snow in the afternoon...then slight chance of snow late in the afternoon. Highs 2 below to 4 above zero. Lowest wind chill readings 24 below to 34 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy early in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog through the night. Occasional snow showers early in the evening. Slight chance of snow late in the evening...then occasional snow showers after midnight. Lows 20 below to 28 below zero. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Thursday: Partly cloudy. And patchy fog through the day. Highs 3 to 9. Lowest wind chill readings 31 below to 41 below zero in the morning.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. And patchy fog through the night. Lows 10 below to 16 below zero.

Friday: Not as cold. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 11 to 17. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Lowest wind chill readings 23 below to 33 below zero in the morning.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 5 below to 11 below zero. Wind chill readings 27 below to 37 below zero.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 6, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come celebrate Susan Salmons! Our fearless weed killer and Northern Rocky Mountain Exotic Plant Management Team liaison is heading off to Alaska! Come bid her farewell and safe travels on **TODAY at 3 p.m. in the YCR conference room.**



It is too early in the year to complete FISSA training. If you do complete it now, you will more than likely have to take it again in March or later in the year. CSS will announce when annual FISSA training is ready. Thanks.

EMPLOYEE RECREATION – UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Seminar: A Slideshow of Travel in Grenada, Baja Mexico and Florida

TONIGHT – 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room located beside the Mammoth Recreation Hall

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**Electric Peak Arts Council & Gardiner Community Center Present
Joey Pipia – Delusionist**

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
Gardiner Community Center

Dinner 5:30pm

Dinner Tickets: Adults \$8.00, Children \$5.00

Concert 7:00pm

Magic Show Tickets: Adults \$8.00, Students \$5.00

Children 5 and under and Seniors 70 and over free

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IN THE NEWS

Gardiner girls get win; boys fall to hot-shooting Trojans

Published: Wed, 02/05/2014 - 5:00pm | Section:

[Anthony Varriano - Enterprise Staff Writer](#)



Gardiner High School sophomore guard PJ Thomas is fouled by Whitehall junior guard Aubree Simon during a fast break in the second half of their game in Gardiner, Tuesday.

The Gardiner girls basketball team used some stingy defense to pull away from the Whitehall Lady Trojans 51-41 in Gardiner, Tuesday night.

Despite losing junior Tess Thomas to an illness, head coach Ben Johnson was pleased with his team's performance.

"We played pretty well without Tess," he said, adding that he expects her back for Friday's game. "If not, we'll be alright."

The Lady Bruins held Whitehall to just seven points in the third quarter after giving up their two-point halftime lead. The Lady Trojans forced back-to-back turnovers to take a 25-23 lead, but the momentum swung back to Gardiner when senior Jessie Hafer took a charge and sophomore PJ Thomas hit a three to take back the lead.

Thomas was then called for a hard offensive foul on a fast break. She got back on her feet slowly and proceeded to take over the game, stealing a pass in the backcourt for an easy layup to make it 33-25. Thomas finished with 18 points, four steals and three assists before fouling out with a few minutes to go.

"She's totally capable of (taking over a game), whether it be shooting the ball or finding open teammates," Johnson said.

Junior Hannah Dean was dominant in the second half thanks to some nice assists from freshman Kelsey McDonald and Thomas on consecutive possessions.

"We knew they were undersized, so we just used Hannah," Johnson explained. "We probably could have used her a bit more, but we don't want to overuse her."

Dean just missed a triple-double with 21 points, 14 boards and nine steals. She also showed off some nifty passing skills in the high post, collecting five assists.



Gardiner sophomore guard Eddie Rodarte tries to split Whitehall's swarming defense in the first half of their game, Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, the Gardiner boys couldn't overcome a first half that saw a red-hot Whitehall team shoot the lights out, falling 68-45.

"I don't like making excuses for our play," head coach Jordan Featherman said. "We didn't have it." The Trojans forced 21 turnovers and coughed it up only seven times. They didn't seem to miss a shot in the first half, pulling out to a 40-21 halftime lead. They had success lobbing passes over the top into the paint as well as shooting from the three-point line.

"It felt like last night we would finally stop penetration, only to see them kick

it out and hit a three with us closing out. It was just a tough night,” Featherman explained. “They were able to get it into the post. Normally, we do a much better job getting around the post and having our backside help set, but last night we couldn’t get that combination to work. Either we weren’t fronting or we didn’t have backside help. For us, we have to stop the ball. We can’t let it get in the key.”

The Bruins may have had trouble on defense, but they didn’t shoot well, either, and every shot seemed to be contested by Trojans.

Junior Jordan Darr led the Bruins with 13 points, as Connor Wines’ streak of double-figure games came to an end. He had nine points.

Sophomore guard Eddie Rodarte added seven points in the loss.

Some bright spots for the Bruins were their continued improvement at the foul line, where they hit 13 of 14 attempts. Featherman also mentioned the arrival of sophomore Ethan Powell, who has seen more minutes of late. He finished with four points.

“Ethan Powell has really come on for us,” Featherman said. “He’s showing he can play up with the varsity and has earned himself some more time.”

Gardiner visits conference foe White Sulphur Springs on Friday, with games starting at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Read More: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/gardiner-girls-get-win-boys-fall-hot-shooting-trojans>

WEATHER

Baby, it’s cold outside!

Unofficial low temps and record lows for February 6th

Station	AM Low	Record (Year)
Mammoth	-28	-28 (1989)
Tower	-38	-34 (1989)
NE Entrance	-24	-23 (1964)
West Yellowstone	-38	-36 (1982)
Old Faithful	-32	-43 (1982)
Canyon	-37	Unknown
Lake	-36	-50 (1916)
Pahaska	-28	Unknown
Grant	-42	Unknown
South Entrance	-16	-56 (1914)

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 701 AM MST THU FEB 6 2014

Today: Partly cloudy. Occasional flurries through the day. Highs 2 to 8. Lowest wind chill readings 36 below to 46 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy then becoming partly cloudy late in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Occasional flurries early in the evening...then slight chance of snow late in the evening. Chance of snow after midnight. Lows 7 below to 13 below zero. South winds around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of snow 50 percent. Wind chill readings 24 below to 34 below zero.

Friday: Breezy. Not as cold. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 22 below to 32 below zero in the morning.

Friday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 2 below to 4 above zero. West winds 15 to 20 mph shifting to the south after midnight. Chance of snow 70 percent. Wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero.

Saturday: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 16 to 22. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday Night: Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Light snow accumulations. Lows 4 to 10. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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Friday, February 7, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Parkwide Network (PDrive)** is reaching its storage capacity. Those users that have data stored on the Parkwide Network Drive (PDrive) can you please get rid of any unnecessary stuff. We sure would hate to have to make that decision on what stuff is unnecessary.



It is too early in the year to complete FISSA training. If you do complete it now, you will more than likely have to take it again in March or later in the year. CSS will announce when annual FISSA training is ready. Thanks.

The date has changed for the Partner Yoga Workshop!

A lot of folks are heading out of town for the long weekend, so we will push back the workshop a week. Partner Yoga will be held in the Mammoth Community Center Studio, **Sunday, February 23, 8:00am-9:30am.** Come solo for \$10 or bring a friend for \$15. Be sure to stick around for refreshments after the workshop!

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GARDINER BASEBALL - Registration for the 2014 baseball season will be held February 12 at the Gardiner School Lobby from 5:30-7 pm. The divisions for baseball are based on the child's age as of **04/30/14**. T-Ball: 5-6 years, Rookies: 7-8 years, Minors: 9-12 years, and Majors: 10-12 years. Season runs from late April through mid-late May. Cost is \$35 T-Ball, \$55 Rookies, \$60 Minors & Majors. Scholarships are available. We are in need of

coaches and assistant coaches (no experience necessary), a uniform coordinator, fundraising coordinator and an umpire coordinator. If you are interested and able to help with any of these please let me know. If you have question don't hesitate to call - Becky Wyman (406) 223-4824.



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IN THE NEWS

-- So you think Yellowstone is about to erupt / Four easy steps to calm your nerves (essay/commentary)

(WIRED magazine's "WIRED SCIENCE" news blog)

<http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2014/02/think-yellowstone-erupt/>

AND:

-- U.S. Geological Survey debunks rumor of unusual quakes at Yellowstone, says activity 'normal' for several months now

(NEWSROOM AMERICA news aggregation website)

http://www.newsroomamerica.com/story/406830/earthquake_activity_at_yellowstone_national_park_not_unusual_usgs.html

--The wonders of wolf-watching in Yellowstone National Park

(Washington Post-Jan 30, 2014)

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/travel/the-wonders-of-wolf-watching-in-yellowstone-national-park/2014/01/30/92cf346a-851c-11e3-8099-9181471f7aaf_story.html

-- Really old pics of Yellowstone, part 1 (w/photos)

(JOHN'S ISLAND photographer/birder's blog [SEATTLE])

<http://john-s-island.blogspot.com/2014/02/really-old-pics-of-yellowstone-part-1.html>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 732 AM MST FRI FEB 7 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow likely early in the morning...then snow. Areas of blowing snow through the day. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 13 to 19. West winds 15 to 25 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow 90 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 14 below to 24 below zero in the morning.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow early in the evening...then snow likely in the late evening and overnight. Areas of blowing snow through the night. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. West winds 15 to 25 mph shifting to the south around 15 mph after midnight...then shifting to the west early in the morning. Chance of snow 90 percent. Wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero.

Saturday: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 18 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero in the morning.

Saturday Night: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Lows 7 to 13. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Sunday: Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 8 to 19 inches. Highs 22 to 28. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Sunday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 10 to 16.

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YNP@Work

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Monday, February 10, 2014



A pine marten checking on the work at the Supply Center building! (photo by Karin Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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EMPLOYEE RECREATION – UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Employee Photo Contest Deadline

TODAY – 5:00 pm in the Parkwide Recreation Office

ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5:00 PM FOR CONSIDERATION. Enter photos you have taken this winter in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Categories: People, Wildlife and Scenic. Entries will be displayed for employee judging in the Mammoth EDR on Thursday, February 13th during lunchtime. Cash prizes awarded. Entry forms are available on the bulletin board outside the Parkwide Recreation Office.

History Seminar – Yellowstone From the Back of a Postcard Presented by Ruth Quinn

TOMORROW – 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room located beside the Mammoth Recreation Hall. Explore Yellowstone through historic postcards as Ruth shares her collection of more than 3000. See what photographic images, postmarks, and messages home can reveal.

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Location: Lake Mess Hall

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Dinner 5:30pm

Dinner Tickets: Adults \$8.00, Children \$5.00

Concert 7:00pm

Magic Show Tickets: Adults \$8.00, Students \$5.00 Children 5 and under and Seniors 70 and over free



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Especially if you have any from other parks besides Yellowstone (DEWA, PEFO, GRCA, Prince William, Fire Island), or from searches/trainings you may have been on with Bonnie, etc.

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IN THE NEWS

Gardiner speech team brings home first-place trophies

Published: Thu, 02/06/2014 - 3:00pm Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise



Paul Helfrich, Zac Macy, ReAnne Kingsma, Nick Johnson, Taylor Swainson and Olivia Reid, all of the Gardiner High School's Speech and Drama team, talk about their team, in the school's teacher's lounge, Tuesday.

GARDINER — Gardiner High School's Speech, Debate and Drama team continues to rack up the awards, coming home this

past weekend from State finals held in Glasgow with first-place trophies in four categories, including Southern Divisionals and Class C awards in both Speech and Drama. They team has brought home first-place trophies for the past 10 consecutive years.

“Another coach told me, ‘Every time Gardiner enters the building, we shudder,’” Assistant Coach Paul Condon, with a laugh as well as a little pride in his New Zealand-accented voice, said Tuesday.

Talk to members of the team, and one of the first things they’ll tell you, in a clear and direct speaking voice, is this:

“We are not nerds.”

In fact, the team’s winning ways has made the team – in conversation, abbreviated to “Speech and Drama” — very popular with students.

Out of a high school population of about 84 students, more than 20 of them participate. Do the math: a quarter of Gardiner High students are on the debate team.

Condon said “Success breeds success.”

Head Coach Christina Cote-Reinhart, who took on the coaching duties 15 years ago, said she inherited a strong program, and she also credits the small school size for helping her know her students well enough to be familiar with their strengths and weaknesses. She and Condon said they’re always recruiting.

“The argumentative ones, we turn into debaters,” Cote-Reinhart said.

Last week, before heading to state, the team presented their speeches and drama in a schoolwide assembly. The program includes a category called “Humorous Duo,” which is always popular, Condon said.

This year’s Humorous Duo was made up of Paul Helfrich and Zac Macy, who did three skits from the film, “Monty Python and The Holy Grail,” including the Black Knight scene, even the bit where King Arthur whacks the Black Knight’s arms and legs off, while the Black Knight insists, “It’s just a flesh wound.”

“The Home Ec teacher made us some arms,” Condon said.

The next day, lots of younger kids were interested in joining the team.

“The eighth-graders were excited about doing Humorous Duo,” Condon said.

For Cote-Reinhart, it’s not just about awards, but watching students thrive and grow, and learn about having a work ethic. Students learn they can work hard and get better at something, she said. One student came back with 10 drafts of a speech, each new draft numbered, and showing increasingly good work.

“If you give them something hard they can do, you see their confidence grow. And that’s my calling as a teacher,” she said.

A number of the team’s members were available Tuesday afternoon during a break in basketball action in the gym. Asked why they do speech and drama, everyone calls out answers, citing that it’s fun, they have awesome coaches, and they enjoy honing their confidence through public speaking.

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Is it just about building a strong transcript for getting into college?

No, not at all. They looked shocked and a little disgusted at the thought.

Sophomore Taylor Swainson, a debater, said the practice taught her how to talk about politics, something she never would have considered doing before joining the team. She said during one of her first debates, she forgot what she wanted to say and ended up in tears. But she stuck with it, honing her skills, and now she makes other teams quake.

“You never forget the first time you make someone cry,” she laughed.

Cote-Reinhart produced an email from a former student who wrote to tell her how much speech and drama has helped in college, especially when making oral presentations in class. The other students told her she came off as prepared and polished, even speaking with only an outline.

As she talks about her team, Cote-Reinhart looks proud — not of her own accomplishment as a teacher and coach, but of her students.

The trophies they bring home are nearly secondary, she said.

“If you focus on helping each individual child do their best, the trophy just comes,” she said.

Read More: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/gardiner-speech-team-brings-home-first-place-trophies>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 812 AM MST MON FEB 10 2014

Rest Of Today: Mostly cloudy. Snow likely late in the morning... Then chance of snow in the late morning and afternoon. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 20 to 26. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow until early morning...then snow likely early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 10 to 16. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tuesday: Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 8 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday: Windy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 28 to 34. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph increasing to 20 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Gusts up to 35 mph in the morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 11, 2014

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The meeting is intended to answer questions about the situation and offer ways the park's Wyoming residents might move forward to secure appropriate school funding in the future.

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Agenda for this Wednesday's Gardiner School Board Meeting. Please note that the Discussion/Information Items will include PL-604 (NPS) funding and pros/cons of a 4-Day school week.

GARDINER PUBLIC SCHOOL
 Park County School Districts 7 & 4
 510 Stone Street
 Gardiner, Montana 59030-9378
 Phone 406-848-7563 or Fax 406-848-9489

Notice is hereby given that a Regular Board Meeting of the Gardiner School District, Board of Trustees, will be held on Wednesday, February 12 2014, which begins at 7:00 PM in the High School Library at 510 Stone Street, Gardiner, Montana 59030.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Recognition
- III. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Item
Individuals wishing to be heard by the Chairman shall first be recognized by the Chairman. Individuals, after identifying themselves, will proceed to make comments as briefly as the subject permits. The Chairman may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when appropriate, including when statements are out of order, too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant. The Board as a whole shall have the final decision in determining the appropriateness of all such rulings. It is important for all participants to remember that Board meetings are held in public, but are not public meetings. Members of the public shall be recognized and allowed input during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairman.
- IV. Mission Statement reading-Our mission is to be a community learning center where students will:
 Acquire basic life skills built on an academic foundation, Become contributing citizens, Cultivate a life-long desire to learn, and Develop individual talents and abilities
- V. Student Council Update
- VI. Consent Agenda
All items listed below within the consent agenda are considered to be routine by board members and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a board member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence.
 1. January 8 Meeting Minutes
 2. Warrants
 3. Financials
- VII. Action Items
 1. Policy 3122-Attendance/Extra-curricular
 2. FFA Stipend
 3. Student Handbook Change-Harassment
 4. MTSBA Annual Dues
 5. Job Descriptions (Lib, Sped teacher, Maint, AD, Sec)
- VIII. Discussion/Information Items
 1. PL-604 Funding
 2. FFA Update
 3. Calendar-4 day week
 4. Second Language education
 5. Strategic Plan Update
 6. Report Card to the Public
- IX. Principal's Report
- X. Superintendent's Report
 1. Emergency Response Plan
 2. Gateway Project
- XI. Adjournment

Please remember that use of any tobacco product is prohibited on all Gardiner campuses.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone plans slaughter of 300 to 600 bison

Meat would be processed, distributed to tribes

9 hours ago • By Brett French-Billings Gazette

As large numbers of bison begin moving toward Yellowstone National Park's northern border, park officials are [making plans](#) to truck 300 to 600 of the animals to slaughterhouses, with the processed meat, hides and heads being distributed to American Indian tribes.

"We do have some agreements with tribal entities to take those animals this year," said Al Nash, Yellowstone's chief of public affairs. "But everything is very dependent on the bison migrating in significant numbers."

So far, despite two stretches of bitterly cold weather that included a temperature of 35 below at Yellowstone's West Thumb on Wednesday, large numbers of bison haven't migrated out of the park.

"What historically has prompted movement is a weather change that makes accessing forage below the snow more difficult," Nash said, noting that cold weather on its own doesn't cause bison to move out of the park.

The last count by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks put the number of bison outside the park's northern boundary near Gardiner at 60 to 70, with most staying close to private property and away from hunters on nearby public land. Hunting is not allowed inside Yellowstone.

Growing herd

This summer, Yellowstone's bison population was estimated at 4,600, close to the park's peak bison population of 5,000 that was recorded in 2005. The bison are divided into two herds, with about 3,200 in the northern herd and 1,400 in the central herd, which migrates out of the park near West Yellowstone along the Madison River.

By agreement with the state of Montana, the park is required to keep the bison population at 3,000 to 3,500 animals. Last year, few bison migrated out of the park, preventing the park from culling the herd as staff had hoped. The park had planned to kill 450 mainly female bison in 2012, but a mild winter kept the animals inside the park.

"Our biologists are saying that if we were to look at a removal of about 600 bison each winter for several winters, then we would have a chance to move that population figure down to 3,000 or 3,300," Nash said. "If we had no other management action, we could see 6,000 bison by the end of the winter 2016."

The last and largest removal of bison was in 2008, when more than 1,600 bison were killed. Since 1985, more than 7,200 Yellowstone bison have been killed, according to the bison advocacy group [Buffalo Field Campaign](#).

The park's winter carrying capacity for bison has been estimated at 5,500 to 7,500. The cost of shipping bison to slaughter and having the meat processed was estimated at \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year.

Bison hunting

The bison that the park would round up, corral and ship to slaughter for distribution to Indian tribes is in addition to any that are killed by Montana and tribal hunters. So far this hunting season, almost 100 bison have been killed. Hunter success only recently increased in the Gardiner area, with 23 bison killed since Jan. 23. The majority of

the bison taken near West Yellowstone — 58 — were killed by Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribe members in the fall.

“It’s been really slow, but it’s picking up,” said Andrea Jones, information officer for Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Bozeman. “The west side has had very little action for weeks. The bison are holding up on private property where there’s no hunting.”

Jones said Nez Perce tribal members may start hunting in greater numbers as more bison begin migrating out of the park.

Bison slaughter

Jim Stone, chairman of the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, based in Rapid City, S.D., said his group is preparing to line up trailers, drivers and nearby slaughterhouses to process any Yellowstone bison that are captured and held at the park’s Stephens Creek corrals. The council is composed of 58 tribes in 19 states, 50 of which have their own tribal bison herds.

Although they’ll benefit from the park’s removal of bison with possibly thousands of pounds of meat being distributed, “the tribes have been opposed to a lot of what the park has done,” Stone said.

He said the group would prefer to see disease-free young bison quarantined —adding that he didn’t like that term — and then shipped to tribes with existing bison herds.

Such a shipment of 60 quarantined bison to the Fort Peck Tribe two years ago caused an uproar among surrounding ranchers and their legislators, despite the animals’ disease-free status.

Ranchers in Eastern Montana are nervous that conservation groups may succeed in their push to restore bison to public lands on the prairie. Stone said tribes should not be lumped in with such groups.

“A couple of things you’ll never hear from us is ‘free-ranging bison,’” he said. “That’s a state issue, not a tribal issue. We’re realists when it comes to managing buffalo.”

Stone said his group supports giving Yellowstone bison more room to roam on public land outside the park where they could be killed by hunters, in keeping with tradition. He said only older bulls and cows should be selected for slaughter.

The current ship-to-slaughter process may be necessary and the meat will be appreciated by tribal members, but Stone said the procedure is not respectful to the animals.

“The problem isn’t with killing buffalo, it’s with indiscriminate killing of buffalo,” he said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-plans-slaughter-of-to-bison/article_3842666e-ce32-5820-a49d-75ef0714fd07.html#ixzz2t281okMq

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 857 AM MST TUE FEB 11 2014

Rest Of Today: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 4 inches. Highs 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday: Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 8 inches. Highs 28 to 34. Southwest winds 25 to 35 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

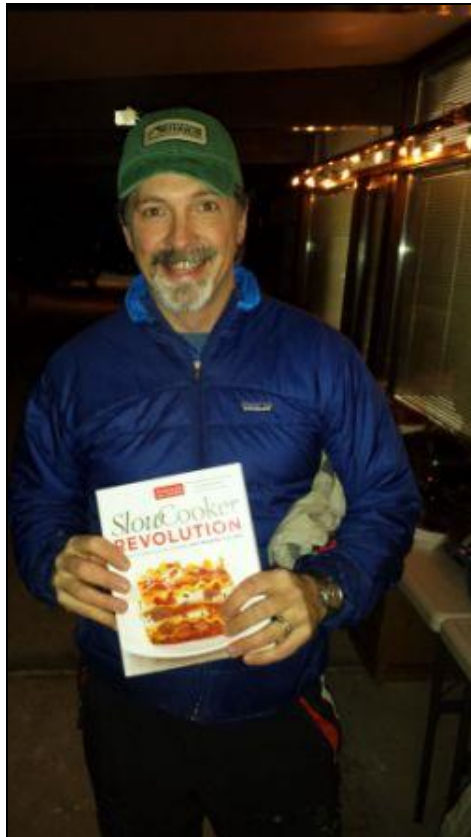
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All parents and children are welcome.
Dan Wenk



Congratulations to Ivan Kowski on his winning chili last night at the sledding/chili potluck!
Thank you to the Mammoth Fire Department for all of their time and effort
in lighting the way for all the sledders, young and old.

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Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of January! Names have been drawn from among the 22 employees who participated. The following employees will receive an award for their participation for January:

Leigh Anne Dunworth-REYP

Gerald Bartlett-Admin

Becky Wyman-Concessions

Beth Coombs-RVP

Claire Stout-RVP

Full Wellness Incentive Program details can be found here: <http://inpyellshare/emsc> then click on the YNP WIP link in the top left corner of the page. All employees are encouraged to participate. If you would like to schedule a training with your staff on the use of the program, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by March 5th.

Here's to your health!

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- V. Student Council Update
- VI. Consent Agenda
All items listed below within the consent agenda are considered to be routine by board members and will be enacted with one motion. There will be no separate discussion of items unless a board member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered in its normal sequence.
 1. January 8 Meeting Minutes
 2. Warrants
 3. Financials
- VII. Action Items
 1. Policy 3122-Attendance/Extra-curricular
 2. FFA Stipend
 3. Student Handbook Change-Harassment
 4. MTSBA Annual Dues
 5. Job Descriptions (Lib, Sped teacher, Maint, AD, Sec)
- VIII. Discussion/Information Items
 1. PL-604 Funding
 2. FFA Update
 3. Calendar-4 day week
 4. Second Language education
 5. Strategic Plan Update
 6. Report Card to the Public
- IX. Principal's Report
- X. Superintendent's Report
 1. Emergency Response Plan
 2. Gateway Project
- XI. Adjournment

Please remember that use of any tobacco product is prohibited on all Gardiner campuses.

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Do you like to play pinochle? Would you like to learn how to play or sharpen your skills? Join us tomorrow, February 13, at 7 p.m. for a night of cards and fun at the Gardiner Scouthouse – Sponsored by Entre Nous. Questions? Call 406-223-1183.

Upcoming CPR classes!**Heartsaver CPR** is the class for community members and the lay person.

Date/Time: Tuesday February 18, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Date/Time: Wednesday February 19, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm (bring lunch)

Location: Lake Mess Hall

Date/Time: Tuesday February 25, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Healthcare Provider CPR is for the EMS provider

Date/Time: Tuesday March 11, 2014, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

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Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: <P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training>

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 848 AM MST WED FEB 12 2014

Today: Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow in the late morning and early afternoon. Areas of blowing snow late in the afternoon. Visibility one quarter mile or less at times in the late morning and early afternoon. New snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Windy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 6 inches. Lows 20 to 26. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Thursday: Windy. Snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow through the day. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 31 to 37. West winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Thursday Night: Breezy...colder. Mostly cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 13 to 19. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Friday: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 14 to 20. Chance of snow 80 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 13, 2014



Riverside Geyser parking lot circa 1955!

For this and other great shots of the Yellowstone and the surrounding area, check this album: <https://plus.google.com/photos/105174375086054167578/albums/5979277742274089729#photos/105174375086054167578/albums/5979277742274089729> (provided by Tonya Matthews)

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Thank you! Steve Iobst

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Claire Stout-RVP

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone transfers 20 bison to tribe for slaughter

13 hours ago • By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press (Billings Gazette)

Yellowstone National Park transferred 20 bison to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes for slaughter on Wednesday, marking the first such action this winter under a plan to reduce the size of the largest genetically pure bison population in the U.S.

The transfer was first disclosed by the Buffalo Field Campaign, a wildlife advocacy group, and confirmed by park officials.

Five more bison that had been captured were to be turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Thursday for use in an experimental animal contraception program, said park spokesman Al Nash.

Yellowstone administrators plan to slaughter up to 600 bison this winter if harsh weather conditions inside the park spur a large migration of the animals to lower elevations in Montana.

It's part of a multiyear plan to reduce the population from an estimated 4,600 animals to about 3,000, under an agreement between federal and state officials signed in 2000.

James Holt, a member of Idaho's Nez Perce tribe and board member for the Buffalo Field Campaign, said the park's population target was an arbitrary number that threatens to infringe on treaty hunting rights held by his and other tribes.

Members of those tribes travel hundreds of miles every winter for the chance to harvest bison.

But Montana's livestock industry has little tolerance for bison because of concerns over disease and competition with cattle for grass.

Steps taken by former Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer to give bison more room to roam outside the park have yielded mixed results, with ranchers and local officials pushing back.

The last major bison slaughter occurred in the winter of 2008, when 1,600 were killed. Schweitzer later placed a temporary moratorium on the practice that has since expired.

The latest group of bison destined for slaughter was transferred to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes.

Nash said hundreds more bison remain clustered near the park's northern boundary, where the 25 animals were captured Friday after they wandered into a holding facility. That sets the stage for potentially more shipments to slaughter in coming days and weeks if more bison start to move into Montana.

"We're set up and ready to go should we see bison come down in significant numbers," Nash said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-transfers-bison-to-tribe-for-slaughter/article_9dfddb7a-467c-5341-81d6-7c2d0df13e32.html#ixzz2tDVzDxz7

High avalanche danger prompts Cooke City warning

19 hours ago Billings Gazette

Heavy snowfall and strong winds in the mountains around Cooke City has prompted the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center to issue a backcountry avalanche warning for the mountains around Cooke City.

The center's staff estimated that 2 feet of snow fell in the area on Tuesday. The heavy snowfall combined with wind has created highly unstable conditions, according to the center, making natural and human-triggered avalanches likely. Because of the situation, the center rated the avalanche danger high in the area.

"Very dangerous avalanche conditions exist," the center announced in an email. "Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended and avalanche runout zones should be avoided."

"For example, Mark (Staples) said that anyone riding into Sheep Creek will trigger avalanches 'for sure,' possibly remotely from the bottom of the slope, which is a scary and usually unsurvivable event," wrote Doug Chabot in the morning avalanche advisory.

Go to www.mtavalanche.com/current for the most current avalanche information.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/high-avalanche-danger-prompts-cooke-city-warning/article_a804dc7c-4237-5c77-8457-10a07c33ee01.html#ixzz2tDaT56Q8

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 539 AM MST THU FEB 13 2014

Today: Windy. Snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 6 inches. Highs 29 to 35. West winds 15 to 25 mph increasing to 20 to 30 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with chance of snow until early morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow early in the morning. Lows 11 to 17. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 16 to 22. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Saturday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Areas of blowing snow. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 19 to 25. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park



Friday, February 14, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of President's Day on Monday 2/17, the **courier** will only be running one delivery route next week on Wednesday 2/19.

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IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone Park to send 44 additional bison to slaughter

Billings Gazette, February 13, 2014

Yellowstone National Park administrators are arranging to send 44 more bison to slaughter as part of efforts to reduce the wild animals' population.

Park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett said 18 bison were captured Wednesday near Gardiner and another 26 were captured Thursday.

Bartlett says they will be transferred in coming days to American Indian tribes for slaughter.

The park plans to remove up to 600 bison this winter if weather conditions trigger a migration of the animals into Montana. Twenty were sent to slaughter earlier this week.

Yellowstone had about 4,600 bison last summer. An agreement between federal and state officials calls for the population to be maintained at roughly 3,000 animals.

Montana's livestock industry has little tolerance for bison because of concerns over disease and competition with cattle for grass.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 702 AM MST FRI FEB 14 2014

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Saturday: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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Sunday: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 7 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Sunday Night: Breezy...colder. Mostly cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 7 to 13. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Washington's Birthday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 18, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of President's Day this week, the **courier** will only be running one delivery route **TOMORROW**.

Yellowstone Supt. Dan Wenk will address the Gardiner School Board in a **Special Meeting TOMORROW, February 19th at 7 pm**, in the high school library. The topic will focus on the federal funding issue for Yellowstone National Park children attending Montana schools.

Upcoming CPR classes!

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IN THE NEWS

Gardiner School District losing significant federal funds

Published: Thu, 02/13/2014 - 8:45pm Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise

MAMMOTH HOT SPRINGS, WYO. — The Gardiner School District is going to have about \$500,000 less than anticipated for its 2013-14 school year due to a little-known section of law discovered during the federal budget freeze last year, Yellowstone’s Assistant Superintendent Steve Iobst said in a public meeting held at Mammoth Hot Springs Wednesday afternoon.

The snafu was discovered by park managers last year during the federal budget sequestration. Managers were tasked with finding \$1.75 million to cut from Yellowstone’s budget of \$34 million. Upon a closer reading of the 1976 law that created the “Payments in Lieu of Taxes,” or PILT, managers discovered the law superseded a 1948 law that had allowed Yellowstone to make direct payments to the school district.

“The two laws were like two ships passing in the night,” park spokesman Al Nash said at the meeting.

Department of Interior officials “embargoed” local park managers from making the information available sooner, Iobst said, and could not otherwise account for the year-long delay.

PILT funds, distributed to local governments through the Department of the Interior, are paid to help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries, according to the DOI website. PILT funds are distributed to local county governments.

The park contributes to both the Gardiner and West Yellowstone school districts to offset the expense of the Montana-based districts educating the children of park employees who are legal residents of Wyoming.

The park has made direct payments to the Gardiner School District from fees collected for recreation, such as gate receipts and campground fees, Zach Allely, the park’s comptroller, said at the meeting. The amount varies by year due to a formula based on the number of children attending the school, Allely said.

This year, 37 children from Mammoth attend school in Gardiner, Iobst said. Last year, the park contributed nearly \$500,000, for an average of about \$13,000 per student.

Attorneys for the Department of the Interior advised park officials approximately a year ago it would be a violation of the law to continue to disperse funds under the 1948 law, Allely said.

No payments have been made this year, nor does the park expect any will be made.

Gardiner School Superintendent JT Stroder said in an email Thursday the school has a “soft spending freeze in place” while the situation is resolved. The school board discussed the situation at a Wednesday night school board meeting.

A document on the school’s website, called [“Understanding Gardiner’s School Budget”](#) indicates about 30 percent of the district’s \$3.5 million in revenue comes from federal sources. The document also indicates the school district maintains a budget surplus, or reserves.

Allely outlined a plan for what he called “moving forward.” He told meeting attendees — about 40, who appeared to be Mammoth-area employees of the NPS or Xanterra Parks & Resorts — a first step could be to petition Park County, Wyo., to form a commission to either create a new Mammoth-area school district or explore annexing it to a district in Park County, Wyo.

A new district would have the authority to make a “cross-border agreement” with Gardiner, Allely said.

Allely provided a petition form to present to Wyoming officials, ready for signing. Many meeting attendees lined up to sign after the meeting’s conclusion, and several volunteered to take additional copies of the petition to their neighbors and co-workers. Only those who have Wyoming residency are eligible to sign the petition.

Read More: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/gardiner-school-district-losing-significant-federal-funds>

Love notes for Laura

Husband places Valentine's ads to his wife over the years

Published: Fri, 02/14/2014 - 2:49pm Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise



Johann and Laura Anderson are pictured at their home in Livingston, Wednesday. Johann has for years been placing Valentine’s Day love notes in The Livingston Enterprise for his wife.

This is a Valentine’s Day story we tried to write last year.

Every year since 1987, Livingston resident Johann Anderson has placed a Valentine’s Day ad in The Enterprise for his wife, Laura.

Except last year, Laura had to place it herself. Johann was in the hospital in Salt Lake City, recovering from a life-saving liver transplant he had just a few weeks earlier.

Laura, from the stress of watching Johann grow more and more ill, and then receiving a donor liver, was too overwhelmed and “brain dead,” as she put it, to talk with a reporter last year.

“Johann, You survived the transplant. Things are just going to get better. Love, Laura Sue,” her 2013 ad read.

But this year was different. Johann was recently “paroled” by his doctor, who, after insisting on seeing him once a month, said he doesn’t need to return to Salt Lake City for a checkup for six months. And his weight is back up to 170, from a low of 119.

“He’s doing amazing,” Laura gushed.

So Johann was able to slip into The Enterprise under his own power and place his own ad this year, unnoticed by the reporting staff, he joked, when finally cornered earlier this week.

How it got started

Johann and Laura moved to Livingston from California in 1985, when Johann secured a job in Yellowstone National Park. He had loved the area ever since working a summer archaeology job in the late 1970s with local archaeologist Larry Lahren, Johann said.

Johann’s job kept him in the park during the work week, but every weekend he headed home to Livingston.

Since he was rarely home for Valentine’s Day, he decided one year to place the ad in The Enterprise to surprise his wife, after he had seen a similar ad elsewhere.

“It sort of became a tradition after that,” Johann said.

And their friends and neighbors have come to expect to see the ad, he said.

“The girls would wonder what happened,” if the ad didn’t run, Laura said of her friends.

Last year

Last year, Johann’s liver failed. He has lived with hepatitis C for many years, contracted, he theorizes, when he was an Air Force medic in Vietnam. The very day he made it onto the University of Utah’s transplant list, a donor liver became available. The surgery went well, but there were a few setbacks while the doctors adjusted his medications.

Laura asked to see him shortly after the surgery. She said she could already see his color improving in just a few hours.

While he was still in the hospital, Johann recalls being in a fog and not thinking clearly. Every day, he was asked for his name, where he was, and what day it was. He had a turning point on Feb. 14.

“I wasn’t thinking about the date, and when I said, ‘Oh no, It’s Valentine’s Day!’ (the doctors) knew I was doing good,” he said.

Johann didn’t see Laura’s ad until he came home and looked through the papers a few months later.

“I really loved it,” he said. “It was an ‘awwwwww’ moment.”

Secret to a long marriage

Johann and Laura have been married for 35 years. Asked for the secret to long marriage, Johann said love and acceptance are key, and not try to change the other person. Expecting another person to change is selfish, he said.

But both he and Laura make the same joke about why they’ve been happily married so long.

“Living apart most of the week for 25 years,” Laura cracks.

Johann is retired now, and he and Laura stay busy with two of their grandchildren, who live in Livingston. Their house is full of cats and dogs, with mementos and photos of a life lived together cheerfully decorating their living room.

Laura remains happy that his liver transplant both saved him and keeps him going.

“Every day I look at him and see a miracle,” Laura said.

Look for Johann’s ad on Page 2 of today’s Enterprise.

Read More: http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/love-notes-laura?cookie_check=1

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 946 AM MST TUE FEB 18 2014

Rest Of Today: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow late in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 35 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy. Snow in the morning...then numerous snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 4 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 7 inches. Highs 18 to 24. West winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero early in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Breezy...colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows zero to 6 above zero. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then numerous snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 18 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 3 to 9. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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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

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowstone Supt. Dan Wenk will address the Gardiner School Board in a **Special Meeting TONIGHT, at 7 pm**, in the Gardiner High School library. The topic will focus on the federal funding issue for Yellowstone National Park children attending Montana schools.

Upcoming CPR classes!

Heartsaver CPR is the class for community members and the lay person.



Date/Time: Tuesday February 25, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Healthcare Provider CPR is for the EMS provider

Date/Time: Tuesday March 11, 2014, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)

The **Wolf Project** will begin our 18th Late Winter Study starting March 1st and ending March 30th, 2014. Winter Study is our intensive 30-day study where researchers monitoring several wolf packs on the northern range daily. Winter study's objectives are to monitor long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. We have 9 volunteer field technicians for the study. Additionally, several of our year-round technicians (Matt Metz, Kira Quimby, Molly McDevitt) will assist. Three technicians will be stationed at Tower Ranger Station to reduce drive time on winter roads and the remaining will be based at Mammoth. Each crew will be driving YCR fleet vehicles, using park radios, and using telemetry to monitor wolf packs ranging from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Our crews will also be hiking off-road to collect samples from wolf kills, conduct elk counts, and observe wolves. In addition, Doug Smith, Dan Stahler, Matt Metz, and Kira Quimby will be monitoring wolf packs parkwide from the air during aerial telemetry flights throughout the 30-day study period, weather permitting. Wolf Project will conduct a two-day training session beginning on February 26th. Safety is the primary focus of this training, accompanied by information on park regulations, data collection, and other research-specific topics. We would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with our staff during this busy time. In

particular, we would like to thank both the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support is essential for safe and productive field seasons.

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“Warm Your Soul” on Friday, February 28, with all-you-care-to-eat soup, bread and desserts while listening to live entertainment! Join us at the Terrace Grill for a true community event and choose from two seatings: a family-friendly event from 4:30-6 p.m. which will include a sing-a-long and story reading OR an adult acoustic dinner from 7-9 p.m. which will include live acoustic entertainment from local musicians. All proceeds support Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Call to make your reservations (307) 344-7311. Adults \$18, Children \$5

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Photography Seminar – Presented by Barrett Hedges

TOMORROW – 6:00 pm in the Conference Room beside by the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall

Want to travel along with a professional photographer? Join Barrett Hedges as he embarks on a photo journey through Alaska, his summer spent bear guiding, the Tetons and into Canada for polar bears.

About Barrett Hedges:

- 2008 Graduated college with a major in photography from Carson-Newman College in TN
- 2008-2010 worked in Alaska at different National Parks
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- 2012-2013 Traveled all across America photographing wildlife

IN THE NEWS

Gardiner School cuts budget, may owe Yellowstone Park \$10 million

Posted: Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:00 am
Gail Schontzler, Bozeman Chronicle

GAIL SCHONTZLER, Chronicle Staff Writer

Gardiner School, a small rural school standing next to the historic Roosevelt Arch entry to Yellowstone National Park, won't receive any federal money this year to educate children living in the park and may have to return \$10 million in past payments.

Montana's two U.S. senators and lone congressman announced Tuesday they've sent a letter expressing their “deep concerns” to U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

The elected representatives asked Interior Department officials to call them and the Gardiner and West Yellowstone school districts with more information about how this happened and what can be done to correct it.

J.T. Stroder, superintendent of the 230-student Gardiner School, said Yellowstone National Park officials told his School Board last Wednesday that the Interior Department has made a mistake for the last 35 years, by sending money to the schools that has not been allowed by law since 1976.

So now the schools may have to pay back the money — which Stroder said probably totals more than \$10 million for Gardiner. That's four times the school's annual operating budget of \$2.5 million.

“It was definitely a surprise,” Stroder said.

Gardiner's more immediate problem is that the school won't get a \$600,000 payment this year from Yellowstone to educate 37 students from Yellowstone headquarters at Mammoth, the children of park employees. Most of Yellowstone Park is in Wyoming, but the school in Gardiner is closest.

The school's expected partial payment of \$400,000 in November never came. Now Gardiner must scramble to cut a quarter of its budget, more than halfway through the school year.

Gardiner started by cutting extracurricular activities. The boys and girls basketball teams can still travel to upcoming playoffs, Stroder said, but the school district can no longer pay for motel rooms or meals for overnight stays. The annual school trip to Helena to learn about government may be canceled.

“We're going to have to prepare for next year as if that money's not there,” Stroder said. “It could possibly mean layoffs.”

Stroder said he wishes Yellowstone had let the school know months ago, before this school year started, rather than in the middle of the year when it's harder to cope with lost funds.

“These rural school districts will be hard-pressed to rework their annual budgets without these annual payments, much less pay back the millions of dollars they received,” Sens. Jon Tester and John Walsh and Rep. Steve Daines wrote in their letter.

Al Nash, Yellowstone Park spokesman, said he attended a community meeting Wednesday where a possible solution was explained to Gardiner residents.

Mammoth residents are petitioning the Park County, Wyo., commissioners, asking them to create a school district in Mammoth or expand an existing school district to Mammoth.

A school district would presumably be eligible for some kind of funds, which would be used to pay Gardiner School to keep educating park employees' children, Nash said. Gardiner residents joined in signing the petition.

“We expect a school district will be expanded or founded to include Mammoth,” Nash said. “Is that going to happen this school year? I don't know.”

The problem mainly affects Gardiner, Nash said. The last time Yellowstone Park paid West Yellowstone School for educating park children was 2011, and the payment was only \$35,104. West Yellowstone Superintendent Lael Calton couldn't be reached for comment.

In 1948, Nash said, Congress passed a bill allowing Yellowstone National Park to use some of its visitor fees to reimburse local schools for educating park employees' children. Part of the law said payments could continue so long as no “payment-in-lieu-of-taxes” or PILT money was paid to state or local governments.

In 1976 Congress passed a law authorizing PILT payments to counties near federal lands that don't get property taxes but still have to provide services.

PILT payments came from Washington. Meanwhile, Nash said, Yellowstone officials kept paying local schools from visitor fees, unaware of the PILT payments.

When the federal belt-tightening known as the sequester hit a year ago, Nash said, Yellowstone officials scrutinized their budget and discovered the conflict in the law. Park Service lawyers agreed Yellowstone couldn't legally continue to pay the schools.

That's true even though Gardiner School gets zero PILT dollars, according to Stroder. Federal PILT payments go to counties, which decide how to use the money.

Asked if it was unfair for Gardiner School to get no money for educating Mammoth's 37 students this year, Nash said Yellowstone doesn't have the legal authority to pay the school.

In their letter, Montana's congressional representatives said there is a waiver process available to the schools, and they'd support the schools if they use that option.

Asked if Gardiner School could repay \$10 million, Stroder laughed at the idea of coming up with such a large sum.

"My first reaction is they'll never get that money out of us," he said.

Read More: [Gardiner School cuts budget, may owe Yellowstone Park \\$10 million](#)

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 649 AM MST WED FEB 19 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow in the morning...then numerous snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Highs 21 to 27. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Numerous snow showers early in the evening...then scattered snow showers in the late evening and early morning. Chance of snow early in the morning. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Lows 2 to 8. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning... Then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 2 inches. Highs 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 9 to 15 inches. Lows 4 to 10. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 17 to 23. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 1 to 7. Wind chill readings 10 below to 20 below zero.

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2012-2013 Traveled all across America photographing wildlife

IN THE NEWS

17 more bison shipped to slaughter

15 hours ago • By Brett French

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes trucked 17 more Yellowstone National Park bison from the park's Stephens Creek bison capture facility to a slaughter facility in Ronan on Wednesday.

The tribes pay a game warden to ride along with the shipment of animals to shoot them if there is an accident and the bison escape from the trailer, a requirement of the Montana Department of Livestock.

That requirement was unknown to the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, which had agreed to take any bison not wanted by Yellowstone treaty tribes. Initially, the DOL offered to provide one of its employees to ride along at a cost of \$350 a trip. When the council balked at the cost, Yellowstone on Wednesday agreed to pay, said Christian Mackay, executive officer for the DOL.

"It's not an insurmountable problem by any means," Mackay said. "We have some loads scheduled this week to go out."

Jim Stone, executive director of the buffalo council, said such "annoying" issues are roadblocks to fulfilling agreements under the Interagency Bison Management Plan and he called into question the DOL's role in the process.

To date, tribal and state hunters have killed 162 bison, said Tom McDonald of the confederated tribes' natural resources office. The Nez Perce, Shoshone-Bannock and Umatilla tribes are still conducting hunts. Montana-licensed hunters took 29 bison this season.

Last week, the confederated tribes transported another 20 bison from Yellowstone to slaughter and five were transferred to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for research. According to a Park Service

spokesman, about 70 to 75 bison are now in the Stephens Creek corral. The bison were not hazed into the facility. Another 50 to 70 bison have moved past the park's northern boundary in the Gardiner Basin while about 400 have gathered in the park roughly between the towns of Gardiner and Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyo.

Yellowstone officials want to remove 300 to 600 bison in consecutive years to reduce the size of the park's herds to meet the terms of an agreement with the state of Montana. Bison advocacy groups have decried the move, saying a target population of 3,000 to 3,500 bison in the park is not based on the carrying capacity of the range. This summer the park's bison herd was estimated at 4,600 animals.

Bison advocates would like to see the animals given more room to roam outside Yellowstone and a quarantine process enacted to transfer live animals to existing tribal bison herds. Those efforts have been fought by the livestock industry since many of the bison carry brucellosis, which can cause pregnant cattle to abort.

Defenders of Wildlife said 56,000 people had emailed Gov. Steve Bullock asking him to intervene and halt the slaughter.

McDonald said confederated tribes are taking bison to slaughter for hunters who were unsuccessful in filling their bison hunting tags. The hunters pay for the cost of shipping, slaughtering and butchering of the bison.

"When it's all said and done, people love bison meat and are willing to pay a premium," McDonald said. "Ninety-seven percent of the people who return to eating bison find it exceptional."

He added that the hunts have been "self-esteem builders" for the parties of hunters that travel to Yellowstone's borders.

"It's almost a healing kind of thing," McDonald said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/more-bison-shipped-to-slaughter/article_a1669c4f-bb9b-5338-9bf9-f0d191c413f2.html#ixzz2tsL1yx4x

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It's up, up and away for ancient trapped helium at Yellowstone

By Monte Morin - LA Times
February 19, 2014, 10:15 a.m.

Talk about passing gas: Vast stores of helium are escaping from the steam vents and hot springs of Yellowstone National Park after being trapped within Earth's crust for up to 2 billion years, according to new research.

In a [study](#) published Wednesday in the journal Nature, researchers with the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) determined that the famed national park was releasing hundreds -- if not thousands -- of times more helium than anticipated.

In fact, researchers say, the escaping helium -- about 60 tons per year -- is enough to fill one Goodyear blimp every week.

They also calculate that this "sudden" release of gas began roughly 2 million years ago, with the advent of volcanic activity there.

"That might seem like a really, really long time to people, but in the geologic time scale, the volcanism is a recent phenomenon," said study coauthor Bill Evans, a research chemist at the USGS office in Menlo Park, Calif.

Helium, or more accurately the isotope helium-4, is produced in Earth's crust as uranium and thorium decay. Often, this nonradioactive, crustal helium is swept away by groundwater, or freed as a result of tectonic movement.

But in areas where there is little groundwater or movement in Earth's crust, helium-4 can remain trapped and build up over time. This is especially true at Yellowstone, where inactive rocks, or what geologists call "craton," have been estimated to be 2.5 billion years old. (The park is located primarily in Wyoming.)

"The Yellowstone crust is among the oldest on Earth, and for most of its history had been part of the tectonically moribund core of North America," said lead study author Jacob Lowenstern, a research geologist and scientist-in-charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory.

Things began to change roughly 2 million years ago, however, when hot magma intruded on the crustal system from below and triggered several enormous volcanic eruptions, the most recent about 640,000 years ago.

"Think of it this way: You have these old crustal rocks just sitting around for hundreds of millions, perhaps billions of years," Evans said. "They have this boring little existence, and then suddenly somebody puts the heat on under them and they start giving up all their long-held secrets."

Yellowstone's so-called magma "hot spot" still exists, and gives rise to the park's numerous and crowd-pleasing geysers, hot springs and fumaroles.

The researchers said the discovery of high levels of helium was a result of their investigations into volcanic activity at the park, and came as a surprise.

Though the helium itself cannot be dated to determine how long it has been in the ground, they can extrapolate how long it's been there by comparing density levels with other areas.

"This really isn't a volcano story," Lowenstern said. "But it reveals how the Earth's crust behaves on a long time frame. The crust 'holds its breath' for long periods of time, and then releases it during tectonically and volcanically active bursts."

In addition to inflating balloons and blimps, helium is used in electronics, the car and aerospace industries and healthcare. Though there is a current shortage of the element, the researchers said it was unlikely that Yellowstone's helium would be captured and processed.

"It's a national park, so you'd never set up an extraction industry there," Evans said. "But even if that weren't the case, it would still be difficult to capture this helium and purify it. It just wouldn't be economical."

Read More: <http://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-yellowstone-helium-degassing-20140218,0,1665876.story#ixzz2tsJT88Ff>

Yellowstone thermal features produce unexpectedly high amounts of helium

15 hours ago • By Ruffin Prevost

Scenic vistas, abundant wildlife and now, new research shows there's yet another uplifting reason to visit Yellowstone National Park.

Scientists studying the thermal features in Yellowstone have found that a surprisingly high amount of helium escapes every day through vents, pools and other cracks in the earth's crust.

Before the volcanic hotspot beneath Yellowstone became active some 2.1 million years ago, the Earth's crust above the park was calm and undisturbed for hundreds of millions of years. During that time, radioactive elements decayed, producing helium that had nowhere to go.

But for the last 2 million years — a relatively short period of time in geological terms — the thermal activity around Yellowstone has facilitated the release of lighter-than-air helium at rates that "exceed by orders of magnitude any conceivable rate of generation within the crust," according to a study published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

Jacob Lowenstern, scientist-in-charge of the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, was the lead author of the study, which found that helium is escaping from Yellowstone thermal areas at rates hundreds or even thousands of times greater than would be expected.

The study concluded that helium, produced mainly through the decay of uranium and thorium, had been accumulating for "at least hundreds of millions of years" in the Earth's crust beneath Yellowstone.

Until the "recent" volcanic activity over the last 2.1 million years, inert and ancient rocks called craton were believed to be dormant under Yellowstone for as much as 2.5 billion years.

As the Yellowstone hotspot has warped the earth's crust, that helium has come floating out.

Researchers discovered what they describe as the "prodigious degassing" as part of a study that gathered gas samples around thermal areas in an effort to better understand the processes at work in Yellowstone's volcanic system. Simple tools like funnels attached to hoses were used to gather and record emitted gasses.

While most people are familiar with helium because of party balloons or blimps, the gas is used as an important coolant by researchers and high-tech industries. It's also used as a tracer element by researchers to date groundwater and track the timing of large-scale geological processes.

Global helium prices have risen steadily in recent years as the gas has been in short supply. The U.S. has maintained a Federal Helium Reserve since the 1920s, when the gas was considered an important strategic component for airships. It was a key element for researchers during the space race of the mid-20th century.

Because Yellowstone is a national park, gathering the helium for commercial use is not allowed, but such a process would likely be economically impractical anyway.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-thermal-features-produce-unexpectedly-high-amounts-of-helium/article_dd26842e-4436-5a24-b1a7-fb55f37ce5b5.html#ixzz2tsLsVQOA

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 621 AM MST THU FEB 20 2014

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early in the afternoon. Snow early in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 18 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 4 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 7 inches. Lows 6 to 12. West winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 19 to 25. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Friday Night: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 1 to 7. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday: Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow showers likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 18 to 24. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 1 to 7.

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Friday, February 21, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **CSS office** will be closed TODAY due to staffing shortage. Go Gardiner Bruins! But somebody will be checking the CSS Voice mailbox throughout the day and getting back to people. If you have a emergency please call Andy Bilton at 406-581-9024.

The **Wolf Project** will begin our 18th Late Winter Study starting March 1st and ending March 30th, 2014. Winter Study is our intensive 30-day study where researchers monitoring several wolf packs on the northern range daily. Winter study's objectives are to monitor long-term wolf predation patterns, territorial movements, behavior, interactions with other species, and characteristics of their prey. We have 9 volunteer field technicians for the study. Additionally, several of our year-round technicians (Matt Metz, Kira Quimby, Molly McDevitt) will assist. Three technicians will be stationed at Tower Ranger Station to reduce drive time on winter roads and the remaining will be based at Mammoth. Each crew will be driving YCR fleet vehicles, using park radios, and using telemetry to monitor wolf packs ranging from the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance. Our crews will also be hiking off-road to collect samples from wolf kills, conduct elk counts, and observe wolves. In addition, Doug Smith, Dan Stahler, Matt Metz, and Kira Quimby will be monitoring wolf packs parkwide from the air during aerial telemetry flights throughout the 30-day study period, weather permitting. Wolf Project will conduct a two-day training session beginning on February 26th. Safety is the primary focus of this training, accompanied by information on park regulations, data collection, and other research-specific topics. We would like to thank all involved Yellowstone employees beforehand for their support and patience with our staff during this busy time. In particular, we would like to thank both the Maintenance and Resource and Visitor Protection divisions for their assistance and cooperation with our field crews, as their support is essential for safe and productive field seasons.

Upcoming CPR classes!

Heartsaver CPR is the class for community members and the lay person.



Date/Time: Tuesday February 25, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Healthcare Provider CPR is for the EMS provider

Date/Time: Tuesday March 11, 2014, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)

“Warm Your Soul” on Friday, February 28, with all-you-care-to-eat soup, bread and desserts while listening to live entertainment! Join us at the Terrace Grill for a true community event and choose from two seatings: a family-friendly event from 4:30-6 p.m. which will include a sing-a-long and story reading OR an adult acoustic dinner from 7-9 p.m. which will include live acoustic entertainment from local musicians. All proceeds support Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Call to make your reservations (307) 344-7311. Adults \$18, Children \$5

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 546 AM MST FRI FEB 21 2014

Today: Breezy...cloudy. Areas of blowing snow in the morning. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation up to 3 inches. Highs 19 to 25. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 1 to 7. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 35 mph.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Snow showers likely in the morning...then chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Highs 17 to 23. West winds around 15 mph early in the morning becoming west around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows zero to 6 above zero.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Lows 8 to 14. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Monday: Snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Highs 24 to 30. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from YOU!

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

Monday, February 24, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Save the Dates! The Program Committee of the 12th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is pleased to announce the next conference in this series, which will focus on the challenges and opportunities posed by crossing environmental, disciplinary, and jurisdictional boundaries. The conference will be held October 6–8, 2014 in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

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Regular Registration: September 15, 2014–conference

Please visit the conference website at <http://go.nps.gov/gyescienceconference> for additional information as it becomes available. You may also email yell_conference@nps.gov.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: Last Update: 935 AM MST MON FEB 24 2014

[A Winter Weather Advisory remains in effect until 11AM Tuesday](#)

Rest Of Today: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 4 inches. Lows 11 to 17. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tuesday: Cloudy. Snow in the morning...then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Total snow accumulation 8 to 15 inches. Highs 24 to 30. West winds around 15 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tuesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Lows 4 below to 4 above zero.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 29 to 35.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IN THE NEWS

Rebels hoops teams, Lady Bruins advance

Published: Mon, 02/24/2014 - 5:00pm Anthony Varriano - Livingston Enterprise



The Gardiner girls basketball team couldn't get past undefeated Harrison/Willow Creek in the District 11/12 C Championship game, falling 42-24 in Butte on Saturday, but did qualify as a second seed in the Divisional Tournament.

The Lady Wildcat defense held Gardiner junior center Hannah Dean to just one field goal in her 11 attempts, contesting every shot. Dean finished with six points, four rebounds, three blocks and three steals. PJ Thomas led Gardiner with seven points.

Gardiner turned it over 24 times and shot just 18 percent from the floor, proving Harrison might be the team to beat at Divisionals.

The Lady Bruins did get by Twin Bridges 48-39 on Friday to reach the District Championship, with Dean scoring 13 and grabbing eight boards to lead the team.

Gardiner junior Tess Thomas returned to the lineup, playing 11 minutes and scoring eight points in the win.

The Gardiner boys team didn't have the same luck, being eliminated by White Sulphur Springs on Friday, 48-41.

In his final high school game, senior Connor Wines shined, scoring more than half of his team's points, finishing with 23 and nine rebounds, but he was forced to shoot more from the perimeter yet again as Gardiner played catch-up. The Bruins shot just 25 percent from the floor in the loss.

The Shields Valley boys qualified as a three-seed, defeating Twin Bridges 62-42 in their consolation game, Saturday.

The Lone Peak Big Horns gave the Rebels a bit of a scare in their elimination game Saturday morning, fighting back from an 11-point halftime deficit to tie it up with seconds to go, but the Rebels' Ryley Waddell sunk two free throws to conserve the win, 51-49. Waddell finished with 12 points, while Lane Lahaye led the team with 14. Cole Fairchild had 10.

Shields Valley's Lone Peak scare was set up by an impressive 60-48 win over White Sulphur Springs in the Rebels' loser-out game and a grueling 59-52 loss in their semifinal game against Ennis, Friday.

The Lady Rebels also qualified as a three-seed, edging Twin Bridges in their consolation match, 43-39.

It was the first time the Shields Valley girls had beaten Twin Bridges in nine years, head coach Kristi Swandal said.

“I’m so proud of these girls,” Swandal added. “They haven’t given up yet, and they proved this weekend that they can compete with one of the best in the state.”

Rylee Hoyem led Shields Valley with 12 points, and Casey McNerney added 11 in the win.

The Lady Rebels punched their ticket to Divisionals with a dominating performance against Manhattan Christian, using a 28-4 run to win 50-30, Saturday morning.

McNerney finished with 15 points and Jessica Gagen added 12.

For a full schedule of Divisional Tournament games, see Page 10. The Enterprise will also preview the entire Montana Western C Divisional Tournament as well as the Central A Divisional Tournament in Wednesday’s edition.

Read More: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/rebels-hoops-teams-lady-bruins-advance>

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 812 AM MST TUE FEB 25 2014

Rest Of Today: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Snow late in the morning... Then slight chance of snow in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 6 inches. Highs 22 to 28. North winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and early afternoon. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 5 below to 5 above zero.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 29 to 35.

Wednesday Night: Not as cold. Partly cloudy in the evening...then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows around 14.

Thursday: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Thursday Night: Snow likely. Light snow accumulations. Lows 13 to 19. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Desperately seeking two rooms for the week of March 16-22, 2014 for the Missoula Children's Theatre directors that bring the Little Red Truck to the Gardiner School. They will help the elementary students put on the musical, *Blackbeard the Pirate* that week (performances Friday, March 21!) but our community needs to find a room for each of the two directors. They can be in two different houses or motels. Can you provide a room? If your family or business can help, please contact Beth Taylor at 406-223-8066 or bethivan@gmail.com.

Looks like the **2014 FISSA Training is ready for action** on the DOI Learn site. Take early to avoid the spring/summer rush! CSS will NOT be requesting or requiring printed certificates this year with the exception of VIPs. Thanks and happy training!

Upcoming CPR classes!

Healthcare Provider CPR is for the EMS provider



Date/Time: Tuesday March 11, 2014, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

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IN THE NEWS**Snowstorm spikes avalanche danger in Cooke City area**

Billings Gazette

With another 10 to 12 inches of new snow falling, the avalanche danger has spiked to high on all wind-loaded slopes steeper than 35 degrees in the Cooke City area, according to the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

"This month's snowfall and water weight have been staggering," said the center's Doug Chabot in the Tuesday morning avalanche report. "At some point even a strong snowpack can avalanche and around Cooke City these would be deep and huge. Big avalanches would likely break naturally, so as a precaution I'd give a wide berth to runout zones during a storm. I can't say if or when this will happen, but the hairs on the back of my neck are standing up."

Chabot noted that the Cooke City area has recorded more snow water in February — 10.2 inches — than California's Sierra Mountains have received all winter.

Southwestern Montana's other mountains received much less snow. The Bridger and northern Gallatin ranges received 5-7 inches, the Big Sky area got 4 inches and only a trace to 1 inch fell from Big Sky to West Yellowstone. Avalanche danger was rated considerable in the mountains on all wind-loaded slopes

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/snowstorm-spikes-avalanche-danger-in-cooke-city-area/article_93298959-a65b-5887-8f62-fe778e4f268e.html#ixzz2uRhZ6dgo

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 701 AM MST WED FEB 26 2014

Today: Mostly sunny until late afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Areas of fog in the morning. Isolated flurries through the day. Visibility one quarter mile or less at times in the morning. Highs 26 to 32. Lowest wind chill readings 20 below to 30 below zero early in the morning.

Tonight: Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 9 to 15.

Thursday: Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Thursday Night: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday Night: Colder. Snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 5 to 13. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

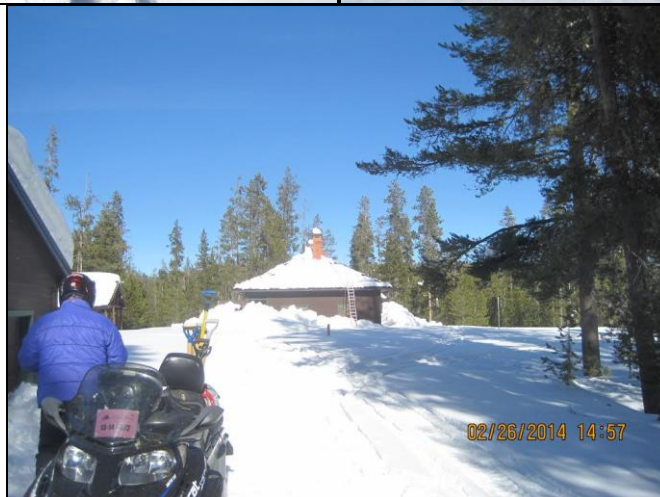
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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 27, 2014



West District Maintenance removed snow from Bechler Soldier Station. It was a great day at Bechler.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cell coverage is currently out in the Mammoth/Gardiner area. Techs from Verizon are en route from Bozeman to make repair.

Some of the [the park's Audio Postcards](#) are airing on [Living on Earth](#), Public Radio International's environmental news magazine. ["This Lake Can Sing!" closed the February 14 show](#) and "Winter Wolves" is slated to air in conjunction with the Feb. 28 show. You can stream or download shows from the Living on Earth website or tune in to [Yellowstone Public Radio](#) Friday evenings at 7:05 pm.

Hello All,

Another winter has passed and we are on to the plowing season starting next week. I will run the FULL courier route tomorrow (2/28) and next Tuesday (3/4) with the mattrack.

****please make sure that if you have any large or fragile items to send or receive, that you get it on one of the next 2 trips.**

Friday (3/7) is up in the air but I will most likely start asking folks to help shuttle the mail from the plow cuts. I will keep you updated.

Thanks, Rachel Cudmore

Dear Yellowstone Employees,

Please take a few minutes to watch this informative video about **9 volt battery usage and proper disposal** to reduce the risk of fire: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSJH21WmALc>

The Employee Safety Committee is working with the Green Team, the Structural Fire Crew and the Safety Office to put together some informational material for employees in addition to providing electricians tape and an informational flyer at all battery recycling locations in the park. **Each time a 9-volt is discarded, electrical tape should always be placed over the terminals.** These items will be in place my mid-March. Please contact your division/district EmSC Representative if you notice a battery recycling bucket that is unmarked after that time.

A suggestion when putting a new 9-volt battery into a smoke detector (or other device): add a piece of electrical tape to the battery (wrapped around the body, not the terminals) prior to installation so that when eventually replacing the battery, it is easy to apply the electrical tape to the terminals and recycle safely.

Thanks,

Stacey Gunther

Employee Safety Committee-YCR Rep

Dave Kelser

Employee Safety Committee Chair



Desperately seeking two rooms for the week of March 16-22, 2014 for the Missoula Children's Theatre directors that bring the Little Red Truck to the Gardiner School. They will help the elementary students put on the musical, *Blackbeard the Pirate* that week (performances Friday, March 21!) but our community needs to find a room for each of the two directors. They can be in two different houses or motels. Can you provide a room? If your family or business can help, please contact Beth Taylor at 406-223-8066 or bethivan@gmail.com.

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Date/Time: Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Healthcare Provider CPR is for the EMS provider

Date/Time: **CHANGED to** Monday March 10, 2014, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

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You have the Power to Recycle E-Waste. Drop-off, anytime, in the signed Electrical Recycling bay at the north end of the Carpenter Shop/shed in Mammoth, unless otherwise noted: [P drive/Safety Committee \(Employee\) Feb2014 ewaste ehint.](#)

EMPLOYEE RECREATION PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

Thanks to everybody who submitted photos and to those who voted. Drumroll please! And the winners are. . .

<u>PEOPLE</u>				
	Title	Photographer	Location	Employer
First Place	“Frosty and Grizzly Barrett”	Pauline Murrill	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra
Second Place	“Ski Yellowstone!”	Crystal Cassidy	Old Faithful	Xanterra
Third Place	“Toddler and Elk Toddler”	Deanie Carlton	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra
Honorable Mention	“Clearing Canyon Lodge”	Steven Mello	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra

<u>SCENIC</u>				
	Title	Photographer	Location	Employer
First Place	“Tree On the Gardner River”	Pauline Murrill	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra
Second Place	“Milky Way and Old Faithful”	Dylan Schneider	Mammoth Hot Springs	NPS
Third Place	“Lost Highway”	Josh Stein	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra
Honorable Mention	“Sunrise”	Amy McCulley	Old Faithful	Xanterra

<u>WILDLIFE</u>				
	Title	Photographer	Location	Employer
First Place	“Death Stare”	Amy McCulley	Old Faithful	Xanterra
Second Place	“Here’s Looking At You!”	Jane Olson	Mammoth Hot Springs	NPS
Third Place	“Double Trouble”	Michelle Trappen	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra
Honorable Mention	“Old Faithful Nap”	Suzann Lankford	Mammoth Hot Springs	Xanterra

Please stop by the Snow Lodge or Parkwide recreation offices to pick up your photo entries.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone entrances will begin opening in April

28 minutes ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — Yellowstone National Park's 2014 opening and closing dates generally are the same as last year's — with some earlier fall closures due to park construction.

Yellowstone's South Gate, which provides access from Jackson Hole, will open May 9.

The East Gate, with access from Cody, opens May 2. The West Yellowstone, Mont., entrance opens April 18.

This fall, Jackson Hole visitors will have to take an indirect route to Old Faithful after Sept. 2. The Mammoth Hot Springs-to-Norris road will shut down completely between Sept. 14 and Sept. 30.

Yellowstone's winter season will close in phases beginning Friday, when the East Gate will close until spring. Skiers, cyclists and hikers are exempt from the winter closures.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-entrances-will-begin-opening-in-april/article_adc1ba09-0bee-531b-a1fc-a3aeb45b2517.html#ixzz2uXiQ9kfo

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 856 AM MST THU FEB 27 2014

Rest Of Today: Cloudy. Chance of snow late in the morning...then snow and chance of rain in the afternoon. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 30 to 36. Chance of precipitation 90 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Lows 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Friday: Breezy...snow. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 4 inches. Highs 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Much colder. Snow. Areas of blowing snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 7 inches. Lows 1 to 11. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Saturday: Snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 7 inches. Highs 13 to 21. Southeast winds around 15 mph in the morning. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Saturday Night: Colder. Snow likely in the evening...then snow after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 5 below to 3 above zero. Chance of snow 80 percent. Wind chill readings 18 below to 28 below zero.

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

Do you see something we could do to improve safety in Yellowstone OR do you see a co-worker who has done something positive about safety? Use the [Safety Recognition Program](#) to report a hazard occurring in the park or nominate a Safety Champion. Full program details can be found using the link above. We want to hear from

YOU!

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

Friday, February 28, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Some of the [the park's Audio Postcards](#) are airing on [Living on Earth](#), Public Radio International's environmental news magazine. "This Lake Can Sing!" closed the February 14 show and "Winter Wolves" is slated to air in conjunction with the Feb. 28 show. You can stream or download shows from the Living on Earth website or tune in to [Yellowstone Public Radio](#) Friday evenings at 7:05 pm.

Hello All,

Another winter has passed and we are on to the plowing season starting next week. I will run the FULL courier route tomorrow (2/28) and next Tuesday (3/4) with the mattrack.

****please make sure that if you have any large or fragile items to send or receive, that you get it on one of the next 2 trips.**

Friday (3/7) is up in the air but I will most likely start asking folks to help shuttle the mail from the plow cuts. I will keep you updated.
Thanks, Rachel Cudmore

Dear Yellowstone Employees,

Please take a few minutes to watch this informative video about **9 volt battery usage and proper disposal** to reduce the risk of fire: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSJH21WmALc>

The Employee Safety Committee is working with the Green Team, the Structural Fire Crew and the Safety Office to put together some informational material for employees in addition to providing electricians tape and an informational flyer at all battery recycling locations in the park. **Each time a 9-volt is discarded, electrical tape should always be placed over the terminals.** These items will be in place my mid-March. Please contact your division/district EmSC Representative if you notice a battery recycling bucket that is unmarked after that time.

A suggestion when putting a new 9-volt battery into a smoke detector (or other device): add a piece of electrical tape to the battery (wrapped around the body, not the terminals) prior to installation so that when eventually replacing the battery, it is easy to apply the electrical tape to the terminals and recycle safely.

Thanks,
Stacey Gunther
Employee Safety Committee-YCR Rep
Dave Kelser
Employee Safety Committee Chair



Desperately seeking two rooms for the week of March 16-22, 2014 for the Missoula Children's Theatre directors that bring the Little Red Truck to the Gardiner School. They will help the elementary students put on the musical, *Blackbeard the Pirate* that week (performances Friday, March 21!) but our community needs to find a room for each of the two directors. They can be in two different houses or motels. Can you provide a room? If your family or business can help, please contact Beth Taylor at 406-223-8066 or bethivan@gmail.com.

Save the Dates! The Program Committee of the 12th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is pleased to announce the next conference in this series, which will focus on the challenges and opportunities posed by crossing environmental, disciplinary, and jurisdictional boundaries. The conference will be held October 6–8, 2014 in Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming.

The Greater Yellowstone biennial scientific conference series, initiated in 1991, encourages awareness and application of wide-ranging, high-caliber scientific work on the region's natural and cultural resources. These conferences, with the active involvement of professional societies and other institutions, provide a much-needed forum for knowledge-sharing among hundreds of researchers, park managers, and the general public. They attract world-class speakers and are interdisciplinary by design.

Tentative Schedule:

Call for Abstracts: March 17–May 17, 2014

Early Bird Registration (discounted): June 1–September 14, 2014

Regular Registration: September 15, 2014–conference

Please visit the conference website at <http://go.nps.gov/gyescienceconference> for additional information as it becomes available. You may also email yell_conference@nps.gov.

Looks like the **2014 FISSA Training is ready for action** on the DOI Learn site. Take early to avoid the spring/summer rush! CSS will NOT be requesting or requiring printed certificates this year with the exception of VIPs. Thanks and happy training!

Upcoming CPR classes!

Heartsaver CPR/First Aid is the class for community members and the lay person.

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 1, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm



Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Date/Time: Tuesday, April 8, 2014, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Healthcare Provider CPR is for the EMS provider

Date/Time: **CHANGED to** Monday March 10, 2014, 8:00am – 12:00 pm

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

Please pick up a Student Workbook for these classes in Supply Center (make sure it is the one for your class, either Healthcare Provider or Heartsaver).

Questions, please call Juanita Bueter at (406) 224-2629. To sign up for classes go to: [P drive:/safety office/ First Aid and CPR Training](#)

“Warm Your Soul” TOMORROW, with all-you-care-to-eat soup, bread and desserts while listening to live entertainment! Join us at the Terrace Grill for a true community event and choose from two seatings: a family-friendly event from 4:30-6 p.m. which will include a sing-a-long and story reading OR an adult acoustic dinner from 7-9 p.m. which will include live acoustic entertainment from local musicians. All proceeds support Snoopy Cooperative Preschool. Call to make your reservations (307) 344-7311. Adults \$18, Children \$5

You have the Power to Recycle E-Waste. Drop-off, anytime, in the signed Electrical Recycling bay at the north end of the Carpenter Shop/shed in Mammoth, unless otherwise noted: [P drive/Safety Committee \(Employee\) Feb2014 ewaste ehint.](#)

IN THE NEWS

Study says bison from Yellowstone can be transferred to start new herds

Matthew Brown, Associated Press, Feb. 28, 2014

A government-funded experiment on diseased bison herds in Yellowstone National Park shows non-infected animals can be safely removed and used to start new herds, researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a wildlife group said Thursday.

The results bolster arguments that a species driven to the brink of extinction last century could be restored to parts of its once-vast territory without threatening livestock with disease.

Yellowstone's bison are prized for their pure genetics. About half of them test positive for exposure to brucellosis, which causes pregnant animals to prematurely abort their young.

Government workers captured and slaughtered thousands of migrating bison over the past two decades to prevent them from coming into contact with cattle herds in Montana. The practice has resumed this winter under a state-federal agreement that calls for controlling the migration and maintaining their population at about 3,000 animals.

By capturing and putting park bison into quarantine, the animals could be declared brucellosis-free within three years, or even sooner with calves and male animals, according to researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Advocates say that means Yellowstone could be used as a supply source for establishing bison herds on public and tribal lands across the West.

More than 200 bison were captured and used in the experiment, which was carried out in partnership with Montana wildlife and livestock officials.

Some bison were killed for testing or after infections appeared. About 60 animals and their offspring remained disease-free and were transferred to tribes on the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap Indian Reservations. The remaining bison are being held on a ranch near Bozeman owned by media mogul Ted Turner until a permanent home is found.

"This will help defuse the argument about brucellosis, that the animals are carrying brucellosis and will give it to cattle around them," said wildlife pathologist Jack Rhyan of the health inspection service. "I'll feel more positive after 1,000 animals have gone through. That's just caution because this disease sometimes crops up where you never think it can."

Efforts to relocate or provide new habitat for the park's surplus bison have stalled recently in the face of livestock industry opposition. Besides concerns over disease, ranchers complain that the animals knock over fencing and eat grass that could otherwise go to cattle.

Yellowstone biologists counted 4,600 bison in the park last summer.

More than 200 have been killed this winter by hunters, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Another 145 animals have been sent to slaughter, and 33 were transferred into another health inspection service experiment dealing with animal contraception, Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said.

Capture operations typically last until mid-March, when pregnant female bison are getting close to delivery and bison begin moving back into the park as it greens up with early spring weather, Nash said. That could change depending on weather in coming weeks.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/study-says-bison-from-yellowstone-can-be-transferred-to-start/article_c5bc7dff-7834-50b5-a50e-39e750c01eda.html#ixzz2udBIeR67

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Researchers find that Yellowstone grizzlies are not in decline

Matthew Brown, Associated Press, Feb 27, 2014

A government-sponsored research team has concluded there are no signs of decline among Yellowstone's grizzly bears as officials consider lifting the animals' federal protections - despite warnings from outside scientists that such a move would be premature.

Members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study team say in a new study that data collected on the threatened bruins over the past several decades contradict claims that the animals could be in serious trouble.

Researchers on the team re-examined how bears are counted after wildlife advocates and a prominent University of Colorado professor questioned the government's methods.

The results confirm the validity of past assertions that more than 700 bears live in the Yellowstone region of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, lead author Frank van Manen said. The peer-reviewed study is slated to appear in an upcoming issue of the scientific journal Conservation Letters.

"The (grizzly bear) population growth has slowed down in the last decade, but is by all means a robust population right now," van Manen said. "Critiques in scientific efforts can be constructive. Because of this critique, we looked very hard at our own data ... It basically confirms what we had seen before."

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials are expected to soon announce whether grizzly bears should lose their threatened species. That would kick off a yearlong rulemaking process prior to a final decision in 2015.

Rising numbers of bear-human conflicts - including periodic mauplings of hunters, hikers and others - have lent new urgency to calls to lift their legal protections and allow limited hunting of grizzlies to resume. Hunters and trappers exterminated the animals across most of the Lower 48 states during the last century.

Yellowstone's bears lost federal protections once, in 2007, until a federal judge ordered them back onto the threatened species list two years later. Judge Donald Molloy cited concerns that a key food for some bears, the nuts from white bark pine trees, has grown increasingly scarce as insects kill large stands of the trees.

University of Colorado biologist Dan Doak said in a study last year that the loss of whitebark pine and a decline in another food source, cutthroat trout, may have pushed bears into areas where they are more likely to be seen during aerial surveys.

He said that doesn't necessarily mean there are more bears, only that more are being seen.

Doak and co-author Kerry Cutler also said wildlife officials mistakenly assumed female grizzly bears reproduce throughout a 30-year lifespan, compounding the government's overly-optimistic population estimates.

Doak said Thursday that he stood by his prior conclusions and hoped they would be further considered by the government study team as it sets up a monitoring program to keep track of bears after federal protections are lifted.

Van Manen said the study team's aerial surveys are corroborated by other factors. That includes a doubling of the area occupied by grizzlies since the 1970s and a trapping program that consistently identifies new bears.

Yellowstone's grizzly population is the second largest in the Lower 48, behind an estimated 1,000 bears in the Northern Continental Divide region that includes Glacier National Park. Smaller populations live in the Cabinet-Yaak, North Cascades and Selkirk areas of Idaho, Montana and Washington state.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/researchers-find-that-yellowstone-grizzlies-are-not-in-decline/article_e78af14f-f622-5c29-aedc-a1baf73f38aa.html#ixzz2udBksZtg

WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 742 AM MST FRI FEB 28 2014

Today: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 6 inches. Lows 3 to 13. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Saturday: Snow. Snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches. Highs 13 to 21. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

Saturday Night: Snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 10 to 20 inches. Lows 3 to 11. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Sunday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 21 to 27. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Light snow accumulations. Lows 12 to 18. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Monday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 27 to 33.

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