

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 3, 2014



A sign of spring was spotted in the tree by the Carpenter Shop last week
(Photo by Lori Wilkinson)

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 **TOMORROW** (3/4) with the matrack.

****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

Congratulations to Dan and Erin Stahler. Rocco Orion Stahler was born at 12:30 March 2, 2014. Rocco was 10 lbs! Erin, Rocco, and Dan are all doing well.

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 by 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

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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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](#)

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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.](#)

IN THE NEWS**Big tires could alter scope of winter travel in Yellowstone**

Posted: Sunday, March 2, 2014 7:37 pm By MIKE MOORE West Yellowstone News

[Big tires could alter scope of winter travel in Yellowstone](#)

A Bigfoot is roaming the groomed roads of Yellowstone National Park, but rather than massive furry feet, this one has giant rubber tires.

In September of 2013, the National Parks Service met with concessionaire owners and operators to discuss testing and experimenting a new method of traveling over the snow in Yellowstone. Park officials are researching the viability of large, low-pressure tires versus traditional track systems on snowcoaches for visitor trips.

“Years ago, the park contemplated large, low-pressure tires versus tracks,” Yellowstone National Park management assistant Wade Vagias said. “We’re looking at exhaust emissions, fuel consumption and engine loads. We’re seeing if this is a way to get around the park in an enclosed vehicle without the use of tracks.”

The two-year pilot program will experiment to see if there is another way to move people around the park with less impact on the groomed roads.

According to Vagias, two requirements must be met. Vehicles must be no greater in impact on snow roads and retain a unique feeling for visitors.

“It needs to be a unique vehicle, different from what they drive every day,” he said.

The Park Service asked Randy Roberson, owner of Buffalo Bus Touring Company and Yellowstone Vacations to be one of the four participating concessionaires in the project. Roberson has spent the past seven years researching tires and wheel setups that could do the job.

Since he had a head start, it didn’t take too long for the former professional auto mechanic to rebuild a drivetrain that could accompany the large tires, while also functioning properly in a range of conditions in the park. Of the four concessionaire owners and operators involved in the project, Roberson is the only one testing his machine with visitors in the park at this time.

“We’re already ahead because of the testing we’ve done,” Roberson said. “I’ve been lobbying for this kind of thing for awhile, so the Park Service looked into it. I had done my homework, so I was able to fast track and get a vehicle on the ground.”

Massive tires like this aren’t easy to acquire, he said, stating that they are specially built and have limited supplies. Louisiana-based Interco Tire Company manufactures the tires, and produce special tires like this when a certain number of orders have been placed. This could mean up to a year of waiting before receiving tires, which can make experimenting various setups challenging for concessionaires involved.

Roberson is currently on his third experimental combination of tires and wheels, and the 38.5x15.5x17-size tire has yielded the best results so far. The tire he thinks will be the best option has yet to arrive at his shop, so he still has additional testing to do down the road.

“We took the coach in the park a lot to experiment with tire pressures, sidewall temperatures, traction and floatation,” he said. “After we were confident, we were ready to start taking tours with it.”

The company continues to monitor the snowcoach’s performance through visitor surveys. To get a same-day comparison between a snowcoach equipped with tracks and one with tires, they often switch riders from one to the other midway through the trip. The company has used the new snowcoach for tours since Feb. 14, and has been well received in surveys so far.

“When I first saw the Bigfoot I was a little disappointed because I expected the track coach,” one comment stated. “But when I rode in the Bigfoot and I heard about the (project), I was very impressed. I saw other tourists taking pictures of the Bigfoot and talking about it.”

Other comments mentioned how Bigfoot was much quieter, smoother and less jerky than the track coach.

When it comes to sound, the enhanced best available technology (BAT) standard for the park is 71 decibels, with 75 decibels being the regular standard for noise outside the snowcoach. The Bigfoot recorded 57 decibels, which is 14 decibels quieter.

Bigfoot is also more efficient on fuel consumption, as it uses one-third the fuel of an identical vehicle fitted with tracks.

“If you’re burning one-third the fuel, you can project the emissions difference,” Roberson said.

Vagias says they’re still in a “truly experimental phase,” and that the Park Service hasn’t done any testing on roads with Bigfoot yet.

“With the environmental benefits, quietness, smoothness, economical benefit and apparent visitor satisfaction, I would ask, ‘Why (would) this not be the snowcoach of the future?’” Roberson said.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 746 AM MST MON MAR 3 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow likely. New snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Windy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 7 inches. Lows around 23. Southwest winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 15 to 20 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Tuesday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows around 19. West winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 21 to 27. Chance of snow 60 percent.

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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!

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

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, March 4, 2014



The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone wearing its winter coat.
(Photo by Joseph Keel)

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Spring Migration is Underway!

Submit your observations of migrating birds and contribute to Yellowstone's effort in monitoring the effects of climate change on park resources.

What to Submit: Species that do not regularly winter in Yellowstone, but that either breed here or migrate through the park. You can find the Yellowstone bird checklist at

<http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/birds.htm>. We welcome observations made anywhere in Yellowstone Park, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone.

Where to Submit: P_Birds_First Arrivals. Just fill in the appropriate information in the blank cells in this excel spreadsheet and save your work. That's it!

When: Accepting submissions now through June.

Questions: Lisa Baril: ph- 307-344-2218 or email- Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov

Common yellowthroat



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EMPLOYEE RECREATION

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Tourism To Yellowstone National Park Creates Over \$400 Million In Economic Benefit**

Report shows visitor spending supports 5,619 jobs in local economy

A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 3,447,729 visitors to Yellowstone National Park in 2012 spent \$400, 346,500 in communities near the park. That spending supported 5,619 jobs in the local area.

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists for the National Park Service. The report shows \$14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy of \$26.75 billion.

According to the report most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39 percent), hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts (27 percent), and other amusement and recreation (20 percent).

To download the report, visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming and how the National Park Service works with local communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/.

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Yellowstone Invites Proposals For Guided Interpretive Oversnow Vehicle Tours And Skiers Camp

The National Park Service (NPS) has released a prospectus soliciting proposals from businesses interested in providing guided interpretive oversnow vehicle tours and skiers camp in Yellowstone National Park.

One new concession contract will be awarded and put into place for the 2014-2015 winter season. It will take the place of the current contract for guided interpretive snowcoach tours and skiers camp that expires on April 1, 2014.

The contract term will be ten years. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. March 31, 2014. The NPS anticipates announcing the selection of the successful offeror in April 2014.

The prospectus implements the NPS' October 2013 Final Rule for Winter Use by requiring the concessioner to provide tours as transportation events. The rule replaces the former concept of a fixed maximum number of oversnow vehicles allowed in the park each day with a new, more flexible concept of transportation events. The concessioner will be able to use its allocated number of transportation events for snowmobiles, snowcoaches, or a mix of both. Because of this change to transportation events as the required service, no offeror will have a right of preference to new contract.

The skiers camp is located in the Canyon area of the park. It provides rustic accommodations for persons on the concessioner's oversnow vehicle tours.

An electronic copy of the prospectus and additional information are available online at <http://concessions.nps.gov/yell500-14.htm>.

IN THE NEWS

Bison quarantine study released amid slaughter debate

Monday, March 3, 2014 8:28 pm

[Bison quarantine study released amid slaughter debate](#)

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

The bison quarantine program now has a published study verifying that Yellowstone bison can be certified as disease-free to leave the park.

The study was published Saturday in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. It's authored by six veterinarians from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, who tested APHIS quarantine methods over seven years for their effectiveness in producing brucellosis-free bison.

The authors concluded that young bison could be qualified as brucellosis-free after less than three years of quarantine.

Blood is collected every other month, and those animals found to carry the disease are killed.

Those that test negative for brucellosis in at least two consecutive trials can be considered disease-free and can therefore be transplanted from the park to other facilities requesting Yellowstone bison.

"This (publication) is an important point of recognition — it's been through the peer-review process," said WCS bison coordinator and study co-author Keith Aune. "There's been a lot of conflict and controversy over bison at the management and political level, but at the science level, there's been a great deal of cooperation."

The conclusions are good news for a number of groups, especially Native American tribes, who want to bring Yellowstone bison to their lands because of the animals' genetics.

Park bison are the most direct descendants of the plains bison that covered the West in the 1800s before they were almost eliminated by hunting.

Over the years, bison that survived in other areas have been occasionally bred with cattle, so their DNA isn't as pure. But those hybrids have ended up in many parks and tribal herds because they weren't exposed to the brucellosis that was introduced to the Yellowstone area by cattle.

Brucellosis is now the main reason that Yellowstone bison are trapped in the park.

Cattlemen refuse to allow bison to leave the park partly because they don't want bison passing brucellosis to their cattle.

The disease causes cows to abort their calves. A cow can contract the disease if it comes into physical contact with an aborted bison, elk or cattle fetus.

Bison that don't carry the disease don't pose a threat to the state's beef industry, so they can be transplanted without as much resistance.

The bison featured in the research paper were the 200 calves that were removed from Yellowstone and kept in quarantine at Corwin Springs outside the park from 2005 to 2008.

The bison were then kept a few more years and produced calves. None of the calves were aborted or carried the disease, proving that the cows didn't have brucellosis.

Ted Turner ended up fostering part of the quarantined herd on his ranch during those additional years. In exchange, he'll keep a quarter of the calves that were born in his care.

The rest are now ready to be transported to one of the many parties who have expressed interest in owning Yellowstone bison, including the Fort Peck and Fort Belknap reservations, which have already received one shipment of disease-free bison.

The release of this study comes as Yellowstone is capturing bison and shipping most to slaughter to decrease the population in the park.

Meat from the slaughtered bison is sent to a number of tribes.

Almost 300 bison have been trapped outside the park, prompting protest from wildlife and Native American groups.

This weekend, representatives from the Blackfoot Reservation, another group that wants Yellowstone bison, held a Bozeman event protesting the bison roundup.

Tribe elder Leland Ground said even diseased bison should go directly to the tribes rather than to a mass slaughter.

"A lack of respect for the animal and greed are behind it," Ground said. "If you do it in the right way, it unites people."

But for now, only disease-free bison can leave the park, and even that isn't without its challenges, Aune said. "How do you take an idea from concept to practice? How do you financially, logistically and operationally do this?" Aune said. "There are still some significant road blocks."

Department of Livestock Executive Director Christian MacKay warned that quarantines could be just a near-term solution.

"It might take some of the pressure off the park population in the short-term," MacKay said. "But once all the other places have their bison, there won't be any place to send them so we'll have to slaughter again."

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Government shutdown cost national parks at least \$414M

17 hours ago • Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government shutdown last fall resulted in nearly 8 million fewer visitors to national parks, costing the parks and surrounding communities an estimated \$414 million in lost visitor spending, the Interior Department said Monday.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said the 16-day shutdown was a striking reminder that national parks are a powerful economic engine for local economies across the country.

"The very unfortunate government shutdown of October had one silver lining: Communities realized just how much benefit they get from the parks being open," Jewell said in a conference call with reporters. "Let's hope we never have to go there again."

Information about the shutdown's effect on national parks came as Interior released a report indicating that national parks generated \$26.8 billion in economic activity in 2012 and supported 243,000 jobs.

Nearly 283 million people visited 369 national parks that year, spending \$14.7 billion within 60 miles of a park. That spending generated about \$26.75 billion in economic activity, the report said.

Five states, including California and Arizona, lost more than \$20 million each during the government shutdown last October, which occurred after Congress and the president deadlocked over a plan to pay for the new health care law. North Carolina, Wyoming and Virginia also lost at least \$20 million during the shutdown, which came as fall foliage reached a peak in many states.

National parks became a political symbol during the shutdown as the two parties bickered over who was to blame for closing the Grand Canyon, the Statue of Liberty and other landmarks.

Six states received permission to reopen national parks within their borders using state money. Those states generated nearly \$10 in visitor spending for every dollar spent, the report said. Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New York, South Dakota and Tennessee all reopened parks.

A bill is pending in Congress to reimburse those states.

During the shutdown, Republicans criticized the Obama administration for closing access to the open-air World War II Memorial in Washington. A crowd that included Republican lawmakers converged on the memorial at one point, pushing past barriers to protest the site's closure.

Jewell and other officials defended placement of barricades at the World War II site, saying that all but a dozen workers at the National Mall had been furloughed. The Park Service allowed veterans and their families to visit the memorial.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/government-shutdown-cost-national-parks-at-least-m/article_d5feac83-c731-548a-b36e-137324391309.html#ixzz2v0iQiZpF

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Decreased funding, shutdown continue to impact town

Posted: Sunday, March 2, 2014 7:36 pm

[Decreased funding, shutdown continue to impact town](#)

Mike Moore West Yellowstone News

The effects of last October's government shutdown, which closed off access to the world's first national park and impacted numerous agencies for 16 days, are still hitting the town of West Yellowstone hard four months later.

Many residents work multiple summer jobs when there is more than enough employment to go around, but rely heavily on unemployment benefits to get through the winter, when jobs are scarce.

Since the government shutdown occurred roughly a month before the actual end of the summer season, many businesses closed early and didn't reopen for the end of the season. This ended employment for many residents a month earlier than expected, forcing them to start collecting unemployment. Those benefits ran out for many in January and February, rather than the usual March timeline.

Last year, Congress extended unemployment benefits, but the extension was filibustered in the Senate this year, leaving many West Yellowstone residents with few options to make it through the winter.

“We have a number of people whose unemployment ran out,” West Yellowstone Job and Social Services coordinator Jack Dittmann said.

Unemployment benefits generally last between 12 and 16 weeks, and emergency unemployment that came with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more commonly known as the stimulus act, is now a thing of the past. Some still qualify for the additional eight weeks of unemployment income, but Job and Social Services assistant Kathi Arnado said tiers 1 and 2 of the service have been eliminated, leaving many without the option.

She added that winter is a tough time to find employment, and her office’s job board is currently empty. The only positions they have listed this winter are a few small temporary jobs.

“There’s nothing,” she said. “In the summer, our job board is saturated.”

To make matters worse, Congress also separated the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as food stamps, from the Farm Bill earlier this year. This reduced funds for SNAP for the second time in two years, resulting in around a week’s worth of food being cut from local residents who rely on this service each month. Despite the cuts, the local food bank is still distributing 30 pounds of food per person, per month.

Add in the highest energy prices of all time and a bitterly cold winter, and you can see why many West Yellowstone residents are hurting right now. Many depend on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which provides financial assistance for energy costs. But federal funding for LIHEAP in Montana has decreased from \$31.6 million in 2009 to \$16 million in 2014. With less financial assistance to go around and rising energy prices, the money just doesn’t go as far for individuals who rely on this service.

Lack of unemployment, energy assistance and food stamps has made life difficult for many locals, and Dittmann assumes that some have left town to try to make a living somewhere else. He bases his theory on the absence of familiar faces coming into Job and Social Services to file for unemployment or visit the food bank.

“People who would normally tough it out are finding they can’t make it, so they have to move out of town,” he said. “And they don’t have a lot of resources to move.”

The decrease in the local workforce this summer could pose major issues for small employers, who may have to start relying entirely on foreign workers to fill shifts. However, many foreign workers don’t arrive until late May and leave in August. That could result in months of the summer season where small businesses have much smaller staffs than needed to operate.

“If what I’m seeing this winter (correlates) to this summer, there will be more jobs than we can fill,” he said. “Large companies will be ok, but small employers will have a hard time this summer.”

Dittmann says many of these problems have to do with the poor state of the nation’s economy in general, which directly affects the tourism destination of West Yellowstone.

“We’re a tourist town, so every dollar that comes in is discretionary,” he said. “That’s what we depend on. If we’re in high unemployment nation-wide, fewer people with discretionary income will come to West Yellowstone.”

Arnado added that visitors who are coming to West Yellowstone are not buying high-end items, but looking for sale items to get more bang for their buck.

“Stores are selling a lot of little stuff instead of high-end items,” she said.

“This is going to be a difficult summer for employers,” Dittmann added.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 727 AM MST TUE MAR 4 2014

Today: Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow late in the morning. Chance of rain early in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Chance of snow in the evening...then snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow and rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 3 to 6 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 9 inches. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows around 19.

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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Snow removal equipment at Norris Junction
(photo credit unknown)

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Yellowstone Sound Library

When's the last time you heard a bison bellow? A geyser gurgle? A lake sing? Many sounds of Yellowstone can now be streamed/downloaded from our Sound Library at <http://go.nps.gov/soundlibrary>. Got a sound you think should be added to the collection? Send suggestions to neal_herbert@nps.gov.

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<http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/birds.htm>. We welcome observations made anywhere in Yellowstone Park, Gardiner, and West Yellowstone.

Where to Submit: P_Birds_First Arrivals. Just fill in the appropriate information in the blank cells in this excel spreadsheet and save your work. That's it!

When: Accepting submissions now through June.

Questions: Lisa Baril: ph- 307-344-2218 or email- Lisa_Baril@partner.nps.gov

Common yellowthroat



EMPLOYEE RECREATION

Volleyball this Thursday night at 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall.

Upcoming CPR classes!



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

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](#)

SPRING OPENING UPDATE- REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Status as of Tuesday, March 5, 2014

Plows: Plows are currently staged at Norris.

Anticipated Destination: Grebe Lake Pit.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 3, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris

Wednesday, March 05, 2014 – Norris to Canyon

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 656 AM MST WED MAR 5 2014

Today: Breezy. Mostly cloudy then becoming partly cloudy late in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Gusts up to 35 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Scattered rain showers early in the evening. Numerous snow showers through the night. Numerous rain showers early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 4 inches. Lows 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then rain and snow likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 35 to 41. Southwest winds 20 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Thursday Night: Breezy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 4 to 10 inches. Lows 18 to 24. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Friday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 31 to 37. West winds around 15 mph.

Friday Night: Colder. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 11 to 17.

- - - - -

Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, March 6, 2014



First grizzly of the year in Hayden Valley
(photo by visitor Kevin Fitzsimonds)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Yellowstone Sound Library

When's the last time you heard a bison bellow? A geyser gurgle? A lake sing? Many sounds of Yellowstone can now be streamed/downloaded from our Sound Library at <http://go.nps.gov/soundlibrary>. Got a sound you think should be added to the collection? Send suggestions to neal_herbert@nps.gov.

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](#).

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WHEN: Tuesday, March 11th at 6 pm

WHERE: MCC

WHO: All Gardiner and Mammoth Community Members

WHAT: Beer Tasting (BYOB), Food-eating (bring a dish to share), Green-wearing fun time!

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE Status as of Thursday, March 6, 2014

[REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”](#)

Plows: Plows are currently staged between Norris and Grebe Lake Pit.

Present Location:

Grebe Lake Pit

Anticipated Destination:

Canyon

Snow Conditions:

4 1/2', no ice.

Weather:

Raining, 32 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES**NPS Intermountain Regional Director Approves
Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive Management Plan**

MOOSE, WY —National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director Sue Masica has issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the *Snow River Headwaters Comprehensive River Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (CRMP/EA). Over the past three years, Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway and the National Elk Refuge have jointly prepared the CRMP/EA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FONSI identified the agencies' preferred alternative (Alternative C) as presented in the CRMP/EA as the selected action.

The Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act of 2008 added 414 miles of rivers and streams of the Snake River headwaters to the national wild and scenic rivers system. In accordance with requirements of the act, the CRMP/EA was prepared for those river segments that are managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The Bridger-Teton National Forest developed a separate but concurrent plan for U.S. Forest Service (USFS) managed segments. These comprehensive river management plans will provide long-term guidance for protecting and enhancing the entire Snake River headwaters administered by the federal agencies. During the CRMP/EA development, joint NPS/USFWS/USFS meetings were held to ensure public engagement and participation in the process.

The CRMP/EA identified the outstandingly remarkable values for which the river segments were designated, including its free flowing condition and water quality. The EA also identified goals for protecting river values, boundary delineation, development of lands and facilities, evaluation of water resource projects, instream flows, user capacity, recreational activities, and monitoring strategies. The selected action will be implemented by the superintendents of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway, and the National Elk Refuge manager.

Under the finalized plan, 39 miles of the Snake River headwaters are open to non-motorized boating and other activities within the three national park units, offering opportunities to experience and enjoy the unique qualities of a wild and scenic river for both private and commercial users. Infrastructure within the river corridor will be consolidated, with modest improvements such as upgrades to road access and parking at the popular Deadman's Bar landing in Grand Teton National Park. Visitor connections with the natural world will be emphasized through interpretive opportunities and more primitive, recreational experiences in the undeveloped natural settings of the river corridor. In general, use levels will be similar to—or lower than—the existing conditions. Recreational activities will be consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act which provides for the protection and enhancement of river values.

"This plan provides numerous options for river users to enjoy the beauty and natural surroundings of the Snake River headwaters, while preserving the qualities that make it a wild and scenic river deserving of conservation and protection," said Kevin Schneider, acting Grand Teton National Park superintendent. "We will continue to provide outstanding river recreation opportunities, while also protecting the associated geologic, scenic, cultural, and wildlife values of this river corridor for future generations."

Copies of the FONSI and CRMP/EA are online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/snakeriver> and on Grand Teton's website at www.nps.gov/grte/parkmgmt/planning.htm.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 738 AM MST THU MAR 6 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow late in the morning. Rain through the day. Snow showers in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 37 to 43. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 35 mph. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Numerous snow showers and rain showers likely early in the evening...then numerous snow showers in the late evening and overnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 18 to 24. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Friday: Cloudy. Snow showers likely in the morning...then chance of snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Total snow accumulation 2 to 10 inches. Highs 32 to 38. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Friday Night: Colder. Cloudy with chance of snow showers in the evening...then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 9 to 15. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs 34 to 40.

Saturday Night: Breezy...clear. Lows 15 to 21.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 7, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY, the **courier** (Rachel Cudmore) will be shuttling the mail to the plow cuts.

Interior employees: please choose someone from your village to get mail up to the courier somehow. If you need the courier to leave later in order to give you more time to get mail to the cut, please let Rachel know, otherwise she will be in between 8:30/9:30.

Next week, the courier run will be done with the mattrack Wednesday, March 12. No shuttling will be required.

The last courier for the winter season will be on Friday, March 14. Rachel will ask folks to help her shuttle again for this final route. Rachel's number is x2272.

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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.](#)

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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 program overview with your staff, contact Stacey Gunther (x2239). Certification forms for the month of February are due to Stacey Gunther by April 5th.

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WHEN: Tuesday, March 11th at 6 pm

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WHO: All Gardiner and Mammoth Community Members

WHAT: Beer Tasting (BYOB), Food-eating (bring a dish to share), Green-wearing fun time!

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Location: MCC EMS Classroom

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

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE Status as of Friday, March 7, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Plows are currently staged at Canyon.

Present Location:

Canyon

Snow Conditions:

4 1/2', no ice.

Weather:

Raining, 32 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 3, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris*

Wednesday, March 05, 2014 – Norris to Canyon*

***Be advised there will be no plowing over the weekend. It is not advisable to be on the roads due to the current conditions.**

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

None

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Study says Yellowstone National Park bison can be transferred**

MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press, Friday, March 7, 2014

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — 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 on Feb. 27.

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

Bison-slaughter protester chains himself to cement-filled drum

Associated Press, March 6, 2014



BILLINGS, Mont. -- Park rangers have arrested a man who chained himself to a cement-filled drum to protest the slaughter of bison migrating from Yellowstone National Park.

Twenty-year-old Comfrey Jacobs was arrested Thursday morning and charged with disorderly conduct, entering a closed area around the park's bison capture facility and interfering with government operations.

Jacobs chained himself to the 50-gallon drum and blocked the road to the Stephens Creek corrals near the park border. The Buffalo Field Campaign advocacy group says Jacobs was attempting to stop the shipment of bison to slaughter.

Park officials looking to reduce the bison population in Yellowstone hold the animals in the corrals. Spokesman Al Nash says 318 bison have been transferred this winter, including roughly 60 animals to an experimental contraception program and the rest to slaughter.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 708 AM MST FRI MAR 7 2014

Today: Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers. Scattered rain showers in the afternoon...then isolated rain showers and snow showers late in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers in the evening... Then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 9

to 15. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Saturday: Mostly sunny. Highs 35 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 14 to 20. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Sunday: Breezy...cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs 37 to 43. Southwest winds around 15 mph increasing to 20 to 25 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s.

Monday: Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow and rain likely in the afternoon. Moderate snow accumulations. Highs 33 to 39. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

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Mammoth Terraces (photo by Joe Keel)

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Heads up!

Boiling River hours 5am-9pm starting 3/9

Blacktail Bear Management Area closure 3/10-6/30

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Monday, March 10, 2014

[REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”](#)

Plows: Area plow running at Canyon.

Present Location:

Canyon

Anticipated Destination:

Upper Falls road and Mud Volcano.

Snow Conditions:

4', ice 3".

Weather:

Raining, 33 degrees.

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

IBMP Partners Conclude Bison Population Management Efforts

Approximately 600 bison have been removed this year from Yellowstone's herd of approximately 4,600 bison.

The Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) partners use an adaptive management strategy to manage population abundance and distribution. Last summer the partners determined that the removal of approximately 600 bison from the northern range herd should be conducted through harvest by state and tribal hunters or culled directly through capture and consignment to slaughter or research.

Federal, state, and tribal members of the IBMP agreed to use hunting as the primary method for removing bison from the population. This year half of the removal was conducted through capture and consignment from the Stephens Creek capture facility in Yellowstone National Park. This management approach was adopted in the 2014 IBMP Winter Operations Plan approved by all of the partner agencies in December 2013.

As of Monday, March 3, state and tribal permitted hunting outside the park boundary in Montana had removed 199 bison from the north boundary area and an additional 64 bison from the west boundary area.

The National Park Service has concluded bison population management operations at the Stephens Creek facility after consigning 258 bison to tribal partners for nutritional and cultural purposes and transferring 60 bison to USDA-APHIS for an ongoing research project.

The Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior and the Governor of Montana signed a court-mediated agreement in 2000 that included guidelines to limit the bison population in Yellowstone to around 3,000 to 3,500 animals.

The cooperating agencies operating under the IBMP are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Montana Department of Livestock, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the InterTribal Buffalo Council, the Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Information on the IBMP is available online at www.ibmp.info. Additional information about Yellowstone bison and their management can be found at www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/bison.htm.

IN THE NEWS



Gardiner fire department has some 'mature' members

March 08, 2014 12:00 pm • Associated Press

PRAY — The 63-year-old chief of Gardiner's volunteer fire department has this joke with some of his volunteers: You can quit the department when you bring a note from the coroner.

After all, Bob Kopland said he's not burned out yet and neither are several of the other mature men who make up the department.

"Many of these younger people don't seem to have the same sense of community," Kopland said. "Or they've already left. We are kind of exhausting the volunteer pool. It's a plague up here."

The Gardiner Fire Department is down to about 20 volunteers, Kopland said. Their average age is late 40s to mid-50s. Several other rural fire departments in Park County have similar issues with fewer and aging volunteers. Clyde Park City Fire has seven to 12 volunteers, with several in their late 60s, according to Chief Chris Mazur. Calvin Sarver, chief of the Wilsall Rural Fire Department, said they have 17 volunteers, with at least eight who are older than 50.

Kopland said perhaps someone should rewrite Norman Maclean's book "Young Men and Fire." Now it's become "Old Fools and Fire," he jokes.

"Volunteers generally stay for the long term, but what we are noticing is the age of volunteers is increasing," said Greg Coleman, Park County fire warden. "Almost half are over 40."

Coleman, who is 48, has several older volunteers in his department, Paradise Valley Fire and EMS.

"We just aren't seeing the young people," Coleman said. "It's tough. It's economics. It's very difficult to raise a family and do what you need to do to be a volunteer firefighter."

At 79, Richard Johnson, a U.S. Navy veteran, might be the oldest volunteer firefighter in Park County. He works mostly as an engine boss for Paradise Valley Fire and EMS, and has an EMT certification. He said he'll continue to volunteer "as long as I'm able."

Staying in shape

Johnson convinced his neighbor, 66-year-old Greg Lynch, to volunteer for the Paradise Valley department nearly two years ago. The men drove an engine together during the Emigrant fire and have workout regimens to keep them in shape: Lynch walks and hikes with a pack, while Johnson lifts weights and uses a small trampoline in his home.

"In all honesty, this is younger man's work," Lynch said. "But if I can be of assistance, then I want to help out."

The trend in Park County mirrors what's happening nationally. An article in a National Volunteer Fire Council publication says, "While volunteers are still the backbone of the system, their numbers are fewer than 30 years ago, and the average age of a volunteer is rising."

The organization attributes the decline to stricter and wider training requirements and changes in society, like longer commutes and jobs that won't allow workers to leave for a fire call.

Some volunteer fire departments in the United States are more than 300 years old, according to the National Volunteer Fire Council. Benjamin Franklin founded the first volunteer fire department, the Union Fire Company, in Philadelphia in 1736.

Volunteer departments have always been tight-knit, community-organized groups. In the past in some communities, every able-bodied person volunteered for the fire department.

But that's changing, at least in Park County's rural departments. People who move into rural areas from cities or other places often don't understand that the departments are all volunteers, and they sometimes don't develop the deep connections to a community that would convince someone to join, Lynch said. Lynch is himself a transplant, but said he was moved to join the Paradise Valley Fire Department after the Pine Creek fire. He was 65 at the time.

"I felt a little tap on the shoulder or a finger in my back telling me to do something," Lynch said.

When he asked Coleman, who also serves as the chief of the Paradise Valley Fire Department, whether he was too old, Coleman asked, "Are you older than Richard?"

New challenges

In addition to fewer volunteers and current volunteers getting older, Coleman said the rural fire departments in Park County are facing other new challenges. Although they respond to only a handful of fire calls a year, volunteer firefighters respond to many medical calls and calls for other types of assistance. Some departments respond to several a week and are often the first ones on the scene. Responding to medical calls means the volunteer departments have to have EMTs, a certification that requires more training.

"We are called more and more often to a broader range of things," Coleman said. "And what that requires is more training."

The wildfires rural fire departments respond to are burning hotter, and there are more homes and other structures near or in the forests that they are charged with protecting, he said.

"Now that we have people building further and further into the wilderness, we are getting called out more and more to put those fires out," Coleman said.

Despite the challenges, Coleman said Park County is lucky to have a core group of dedicated volunteers. They are "ordinary people doing extraordinary things," he said.

"When you join a rural fire department, you are joining your friends and neighbors to protect your community," he said.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/gardiner-fire-department-has-some-mature-members/article_96f02406-428c-57ec-a1cd-5133a9f1ef25.html#ixzz2vZQSeagI



Park historian to receive honorary doctorate from MSU

Published: Fri, 03/07/2014 - 5:52pm |

Liz Kearney – Livingston Enterprise

Yellowstone National Park Historian Lee Whittlesey will receive an honorary Ph.D. from Montana State University, MSU announced today.

Whittlesey will receive an honorary doctorate in history during the school's May 3 commencement. He will be honored along with Donna Shalala, who was the U.S.

Secretary of Health and Human Services under the Clinton administration.

"Montana State University is privileged to honor Donna Shalala and Lee Whittlesey with the highest commendation the Montana Board of Regents can confer," MSU President Waded Cruzado said in a news release. "Both have had extraordinarily distinguished careers and are extremely deserving of this recognition."

“I’m honored and humbled,” by the degree, Whittlesey said Friday morning.

Whittlesey, 63, has served as historian of Yellowstone National Park for a decade. He has also spent more than 40 years researching and writing about the history of the Yellowstone region and is recognized as an international authority on Yellowstone’s vast historical literature, the release said.

Among other books, Whittlesey has also authored “Yellowstone Place Names” and “Death in Yellowstone.”

In a phone interview earlier this week, Whittlesey, who is the author of nine other books, said he has two more nearly ready for publication. The first is a book with strong Park County connections, about the early town of Cinnabar. The title is “Dreams of Cinnabar: Montana’s Raucous Gateway to Yellowstone.”

The manuscript is being read by local historians as well as a publisher. A publication date has not yet been set.

Cinnabar was located on the Yellowstone River three miles northwest of Gardiner on the Yellowstone River. It was a train terminus until 1902, when the rail line was completed through to Gardiner. Whittlesey chose the word “raucous” for the title because it fits how early visitors often described the town.

One quote Whittlesey recalled came from the renowned naturalist, John Muir.

“This Cinnabar ‘city,’ so named from the cinnabar seams and bars and stripes that make American flags of the mountains that environ it, is a terrible place,” Muir wrote. “It is the nearest approach that the Government allows to the Park, and the result is the lodgment against the limits of the Park of a singularly motley crowd of old hunters, trappers, traders and grizzled old pioneers, to say nothing of gamblers, roughs, and desperadoes.”

Livingston and many other Park County towns figure prominently in the book.

“The viewpoint characters — members of the Hoppe family — run back and forth to Livingston,” Whittlesey said.

Another title in the works which Whittlesey called “an official government piece of writing,” is a four-volume work titled, “This Modern Saratoga of the Wilderness: A History of the Mammoth Hot Springs and the Mammoth Village in Yellowstone National Park.”

The work should be available in time for the National Park Service centennial in 2016, he said.

Whittlesey’s work has led to considerable acclaim, including appearances on ABC News, NBC News, the Discovery Channel, the Travel Channel, the History Channel, People magazine, and in the 2009 Ken Burns film, “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” the MSU news release stated.

Whittlesey has published many peer-reviewed journal articles, scholarly book chapters and other publications, as well as numerous historical reports on a variety of subjects of importance to Yellowstone National Park managers, scholars, park interpreters and other educators, the release said. He has also served on the editorial advisory board of the Montana Historical Society.

In addition to his scholarly work, over the years Whittlesey has held many positions in Yellowstone, including park archivist, park ranger, tour guide, tour bus driver, communications specialist and company historian for a park concessioner, TW Services.

Whittlesey previously taught a course on Yellowstone National Park history for the MSU history department, and he continues to conduct popular short courses in Yellowstone history for the general public at the Yellowstone Institute. He is frequently seen in regional and local media discussing the details and meanings of Yellowstone-area history.

Whittlesey has a bachelor of arts degree in communication from the University of Oklahoma, a law degree from the University of Oklahoma, a master's degree in history from MSU, and an honorary doctorate of science and humane letters from Idaho State University.

Read More: http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/park-historian-receive-honorary-doctorate-msu?cookie_check=1

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 653 AM MDT MON MAR 10 2014

Today: Breezy. Snow in the morning...then snow and rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 6 inches. Highs 34 to 40. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 7 to 8 inches. Total snow accumulation 9 to 18 inches. Lows 14 to 20. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tuesday: Cloudy with chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs 25 to 31. Northeast winds around 15 mph in the morning. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Tuesday Night: Colder. Partly cloudy. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 5 to 11.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 30 to 36.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 11 to 17.

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

All employees are encouraged to participate in the [Wellness Incentive Program](#) (WIP). Full program details can be found by clicking the link above. You may begin participation at the beginning of any month. Simply complete a certification form and submit it to Stacey Gunther by the fifth day of the following month (i.e. send by April 5th for wellness participation during March). Five names will be drawn each month for an award.

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

Tuesday, March 11, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just a reminder for those travelling the **North entrance road**. Please make sure to obey all traffic control devices when entering the park - stop signs apply to all - not just visitors. Road condition advisories were missed by a few folks this morning that chose to drive past the entrance station without stopping. No matter which lanes are open, the stop signs and speed limits apply.

This week, the courier run will be done with the mattrack Wednesday, March 12. No shuttling will be required.

The last courier for the winter season will be on Friday, March 14. Rachel will ask folks to help her shuttle again for this final route. Rachel's number is x2272.

Snake River District Ranger Angela Boyers is leaving Yellowstone for Glen Canyon!

Come to a going Away BBQ Lunch for Angela Boyers at the Grant Maintenance Yard **TOMORROW**, 2014 at Noon. You can bring a dish if you like, but Burgers, Dogs and cookies will be provided.

Please let Snake River Deputy District Ranger Steve Roper know if you'll be coming

St. Patrick's Day Community Potluck and Beer Tasting



WHEN: **TONIGHT** at 6 pm

WHERE: MCC

WHO: All Gardiner and Mammoth Community Members

WHAT: Beer Tasting (BYOB), Food-eating (bring a dish to share), Green-wearing fun time!

****Keep up to date on MCC happenings and details here****

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/mammothcommunitycenterMCC>

mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com

The **last day for Taco Tuesday at the Mammoth General Store** will be **TODAY**. The last day for food service altogether will be March 14. The Store will be closed completely from March 17-23 for interior remodeling.

After the 23rd there will no longer be food service, until the Store transitions to ice cream offerings in the spring.

Heads up! Boiling River hours 5am-9pm starting 3/9. Blacktail Bear Management Area closure 3/10-6/30

Livingston HealthCare and Mammoth Clinic will be having a 2 day Spring Health Screening. This will take place at The Gardiner School on Tuesday March 18th from 6am to 9am and at The Mammoth Clinic on Wednesday March 19th from 7am to 9am.

The following services will be provided:

Vitamin D (\$25)

Evaluates for vitamin D deficiency; and/or to determine if supplementation is adequate.

Hemoglobin A1c (\$20) The A1c test is used to monitor the glucose control of diabetics over time.

INCLUDES:

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP) to assess risk for diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, and hypertension; **Complete Blood Count (CBC)** to screen for disorders that affect blood cells; **Lipid Profile** to assess risk for heart disease; **TSH** to evaluate thyroid function. This is a fasting test, please consume only water after 8 pm the night before.

Blood Profile Testing (\$50)

Prostate Specific Antigen (\$15) Screening for Prostate Cancer.

ACA Navigator Consultation (free) A certified Navigator will be available to answer questions about the new health insurance.

Please call with any questions. Mammoth Clinic 307-344-7965 Livingston HealthCare 406-222-3541

Thanks and we hope to see you at the Health Fair!

Upcoming CPR classes!



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

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

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](#)

Join Home Ground for a radio interview with George Bumann on Yellowstone Public Radio!

Following a recent lecture in Helena, Montana, George met with Brian Kahn, the host of the "Home Ground" radio program. A 30 minute recording of that conversation on the subject of George's background, experiences teaching in Yellowstone Park and the intelligence of animals, will air this coming week.

The broadcast may be heard Tuesday, March 11th, at 6:30pm, on [Yellowstone Public Radio/KEMC](#) & at 1pm on Montana Public Radio/KUFM

SPRING OPENING UPDATE
SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Tuesday, March 11, 2014

[REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”](#)

Plows: Area plow running at Canyon. Plows working between Norris and Canyon clearing new snow. Plows at the north end of Hayden Valley.

Present Location:

North end of Hayden Valley.

Anticipated Destination:

Mud Volcano.

Snow Conditions:

4 1/2', ice 1" and drifts 14'.

Weather:

New snow 4-6", 28 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official "Administrative Travel" is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Canyon to Lake

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS**Man holds intruder at gunpoint**

Published: Mon, 03/10/2014 - 4:44pm | By Rose Brown - Livingston Enterprise

A Gardiner man held a knife-wielding intruder at gunpoint in his home Sunday night until Sheriff's deputies arrived to arrest the man, police said.

Authorities arrested Barrett Snider, 25, of Missoula, around midnight Sunday night in connection with the incident, Park County Undersheriff Scott Hamilton said.

Hamilton said when he responded to the call and entered the house, the intruder was already lying on the floor on his stomach.

"I'm just glad this homeowner had the means to protect himself," Hamilton said.

He acted very appropriately and showed tremendous restraint, Hamilton added.

The resident told law enforcement he saw the intruder entering his bedroom carrying a large knife that looked like a butcher knife, Hamilton said.

At that point he said he pointed his handgun at the man and told him to “Back up, drop the knife, and get on the floor.”

The resident’s father, who had been in another part of the house, came to the scene and called 911, Hamilton said.

None of the people who live in the house, which is located on Main Street, knew Snider, or were aware of any reason that he would enter their home with a knife, Hamilton said.

Snider appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs, he added.

The door to the residence had been left unlocked — a good reminder to lock your doors, Hamilton said.

Snider has been charged with felony burglary and assault with a weapon, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia after officers said he was found carrying a marijuana pipe.

He was arraigned Monday morning and his bond was set at \$5,000.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/man-holds-intruder-gunpoint>

Districts seek answers from feds on PILT repayment

[Districts seek answers from feds on PILT repayment](#)

By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News |

West Yellowstone School District 69 and two other Montana school districts bordering Yellowstone National Park still remain in the dark with few answers regarding a federal government error in 1976 that could cost the district millions, which came to light last year.

Since 1948, schools in West Yellowstone and Gardiner have received annual payments from the Department of the Interior meant to compensate the districts for educating students who live in Yellowstone National Park. That money came from Yellowstone visitor fees, according to Yellowstone National Park spokesman Al Nash, and schools were only allowed that money if they were in counties that did not receive payments-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILT, money.

In 1976, Congress authorized PILT payments to counties around Yellowstone, so West Yellowstone and Gardiner schools were technically no longer allowed their annual payments from the park. However, Yellowstone officials didn’t get the memo from Washington and continued to pay the school districts as they had been, according to Nash.

On Feb. 26, West Yellowstone superintendent Lael Calton, board chair Maggie Anderson, K-6 principal and activities director Kevin Flanagan, business manager Spring Binfet and district clerk Bunnie Weickum joined Gardiner superintendent JT Stroder, board chair and Montana School Boards Association attorneys for a conference call with Department of Justice and Department of Interior officials. Representatives for Sen. Jon Tester and Rep. Steve Daines also weighed in on the call.

According to Calton, Bruce Sheaffer, comptroller for the National Park Service, told school administrators that NPS discovered the error last spring. Despite the error being uncovered nearly a year ago, districts have yet to receive any formal information on the matter.

Calton says she first caught wind of the issue when Daines contacted the school district.

According to Sheaffer, whenever money is expended erroneously, the Department of Interior has to do due diligence to recoup the money. A full investigation is ongoing, and it is likely the debt will be owed by the school districts.

“After the investigation, (NPS) will go to the Department of Justice to inform them of the result of the investigation,” Calton said. “At that point, they will decide if they’re going to do debt forgiveness of the districts or (decide if there is) some sort of amount the district owes.”

Calton says Tester, John Walsh and Daines are the only three entities that have contacted the district in regard to this issue. When asked when the school will receive formal correspondence from the DOI, Sheaffer responded, “They’ll get a bill from us.”

Calton asked about the possibility of a phase-out, where the DOI would pay the district half of what they owe and a quarter of that amount over the next two years to allow the district to adjust their budget accordingly. However, once the error was discovered, the DOI says they can’t give the district more money.

“They discovered the error last spring, but Gardiner received money as recently as last December,” Calton said. “Montana is in the range of \$8 million that is owed between the Gardiner District and the West Yellowstone District. So far that is their discovery.”

Dylan Laslovich, who serves as Tester’s legislative assistant in Washington, says the U.S. Department of the Treasury gets notified 100 days after discovery, and has 180 days to bill the district.

DOI senior attorney Rachel Spector told the districts that the criteria for debt collection pursuant to fair claims collection standards delineates the process by which any agency claiming a debt can compromise the debt.

“Maybe we owe millions, but maybe we don’t have the means to pay the debt,” Calton said. “The DOI is talking about debt forgiveness, but that bothers both districts because it implies wrongdoing of the districts. We’ve had contracts they’ve issued to us; we signed off and took the money in good faith. There is no wrong doing by either West Yellowstone or Gardiner school districts.”

Laslovich told Calton that Tester, Walsh and Danies plan to fix this through legislation; however, Calton's email response to Laslovich asking how it will be fixed has yet to be answered.

"They're really not talking a lot about it," she said. "We're still waiting for answers."

Yellowstone National Park superintendent Dan Wenk, deputy superintendent Steve Iobst and Yellowstone comptroller Zach Allely will attend the next regular school board meeting on Tuesday, March 11 to answer community member questions. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. in the school's art room.

"I want to keep the public aware of what is going on, but they're keeping West Yellowstone and Gardiner in the dark," Calton said. "It's been a bit frustrating."

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 743 AM MDT TUE MAR 11 2014

Today: Cloudy with chance of snow early in the morning... Then cloudy with snow likely late in the morning. Partly cloudy in the afternoon. Little or no new snow accumulation. Highs 25 to 31. Northeast winds around 15 mph early in the morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 5 to 13.

Wednesday: Not as cold. Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 11 to 17.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 32 to 38.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 12 to 18.

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Just a reminder for those travelling the **North entrance road**. Please make sure to obey all traffic control devices when entering the park - stop signs apply to all - not just visitors. Road condition advisories were missed by a few folks this morning that chose to drive past the entrance station without stopping. No matter which lanes are open, the stop signs and speed limits apply.

The **last courier for the winter season** will be on Friday, March 14. Rachel will ask folks to help her shuttle again for this final route. Rachel's number is x2272.

The Rideshare bus will be moving back to our new bus on Thursday evening 3/13/14. Don't forget to take any items you may have on the big bus. If you do leave something on the bus that you need, call Bob Hester at 2322 and we can take care of that.

Heads up! Boiling River hours 5am-9pm starting 3/9. Blacktail Bear Management Area closure 3/10-6/30

Livingston HealthCare and Mammoth Clinic will be having a 2 day Spring Health Screening. This will take place at The Gardiner School on Tuesday March 18th from 6am to 9am and at The Mammoth Clinic on Wednesday March 19th from 7am to 9am.

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Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP) to assess risk for diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, and hypertension; **Complete Blood Count (CBC)** to screen for disorders that affect blood cells; **Lipid Profile** to assess risk for heart disease; **TSH** to evaluate thyroid function. This is a fasting test, please consume only water after 8 pm the night before.

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ACA Navigator Consultation (free) A certified Navigator will be available to answer questions about the new health insurance.

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Upcoming CPR classes!

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Location: MCC EMS Classroom

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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](#)

EMPLOYEE RECREATION

Thursday, March 13th – Pickup Volleyball at 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall.

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Wednesday, March 12, 2014

[REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”](#)

Plows: Area plow running at Canyon. Plows working between Norris and Lake. Plows at Mud Volcano.

Present Location:

Mud Volcano

Anticipated Destination:

Lake

Snow Conditions:

3', no ice.

Weather:

Sunny, 7 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

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Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Canyon to Lake

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

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IN THE NEWS**Lake trout cull could boost cutthroat, feed grizzlies***Study shows dramatic decrease in numbers of spawning fish.*

Posted: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 12:15 am

[Lake trout cull could boost cutthroat, feed grizzlies](#) By Mike Koshmrl

Grizzly and black bears that once feasted on cutthroat trout spawning in Yellowstone Lake tributaries will readily return to the food source if the species bounces back, a study predicts.

The study, “Contrasting Past and Current Number of Bears Visiting Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout Streams,” supports a multimillion-dollar effort to reduce invasive mackinaw in Yellowstone Lake. The paper was published in the Journal of Wildlife Management in February.

“We suggest that the number of spawning trout per stream will have to reach approximately 400 fish per kilometer of stream before large numbers of grizzly and black bears once again specialize on this food,” Washington State University researcher and chief author Justin Teisberg wrote.

“If the Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout population can be recovered to such levels,” Teisberg wrote, “grizzly and black bears that still reside within the lake basin will readily find and use this high-quality food resource, potentially returning both species to higher use of backcountry habitat.”

Teisberg, who conducted field work from 2007 to 2010, suggests that cutthroat numbers have a long way to go before the species is a dependable food source for bruins once again. A similar survey of spawning activity and grizzly bear use was conducted between 1997 and 2000, providing Teisberg with comparable data.

“The decline in cutthroat trout spawning activity was more widespread than previously documented,” Teisberg wrote. “The median peak [spawning fish] count on streams decreased by a median of 98.4 percent, or 71 fish.”

In Teisberg’s study, the median number of spawning trout counted per Yellowstone Lake tributary was a dismal 2.5 fish. Only 15 out of 35 known cutthroat spawning streams sampled had spawning activity, on average, each year. No cutthroat were ever observed over three years on 20 percent of the known spawning streams sampled.

Historically, 59 of Yellowstone Lake’s 124 feeder streams supported cutthroat trout.

Grizzlies and black bears once congregated around the streams during the spring spawn.

As recently as the late 1980s, grizzlies in the Yellowstone Lake area ate an estimated 21,000 cutthroat a year, Teisberg wrote. By the late 1990s consumption dipped to 2,300 trout a year.

During Teisberg's study, he wrote, the estimate was just 302 cutthroat a year — seven cutthroat a year for every male grizzly, three trout a year for every female.

Lake trout, believed to have been introduced to Yellowstone Lake illegally in the late 1980s, are thought to be the primary cause in the collapse of the cutthroat population. Fatal whirling disease and habitat-degrading drought are also implicated in the decline, Teisberg wrote.

Lake trout, summer spawners that lay their eggs in Yellowstone Lake, are not an accessible food source for terrestrial wildlife.

Over the course of Teisberg's research an increasing number of spawning cutthroat were observed.

More than 1.3 million predatory lakers have been netted and killed in Yellowstone Lake since the reduction effort began in 2000, and park biologists say cutthroat numbers are starting to respond.

Rising cutthroat numbers, however, now have no bearing on the location or number of grizzly bears near Yellowstone Lake, Teisberg wrote.

"We found no relationship between trout numbers and numbers of bears in the current study," he wrote, "presumably because the low density of remaining trout (less than 1 percent of historical numbers) can no longer be efficiently exploited by grizzly bears."

Grasses, sedges and forbs have replaced trout as the primary bear foods found along Yellowstone Lake stream corridors.

The number of grizzly bears using the stream corridors — for any reason — decreased by an estimated 63 percent between the turn-of-the-century study and Teisberg's study. Black bear use of the feeder streams decreased by "64 to 84 percent," the study said.

Grizzly distribution also shifted from backcountry streams — located on Yellowstone's Lake's inaccessible east and south sides — to the lake's more developed sides.

"The relative abundance of cutthroat trout may influence bear mortality rates," Teisberg wrote. "For other major food items (e.g., whitebark pine nuts, ungulates and army cutworm moths), conflicts between grizzly bears and humans increase in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during years of low availability but decrease when these preferred foods are abundant."

Teisberg is confident that grizzly and black bears could one day relearn how to use cutthroat as a seasonal food source.

“We considered whether the use of cutthroat trout by future generations may be in jeopardy because of the loss of traditional foraging knowledge passed from mothers to cubs,” Teisberg wrote. “However, with a well-documented natural history as an opportunistic omnivore ... we are certain that bears, if abundant, will once again return to the use of this high-quality food resource.

“For these reasons, we endorse the ongoing gillnetting efforts to control numbers of lake trout in Yellowstone Lake,” Teisberg wrote in closing.

Teisberg and Mark Haroldson, a contributing author and Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team member, did not respond to interview requests on Tuesday.

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Yellowstone bison slaughter protester arraigned

20 hours ago • Billings Gazette

The Grand Junction, Colo., man who chained himself to a gate on March 6 in protest of Yellowstone National Park's bison slaughter, made his initial appearance at the Yellowstone Justice Center on Tuesday.

Comfrey Jacobs, 20, declined a plea bargain when he appeared before U.S. District Court Judge Mark Carman in the park's court at Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyo. Jacobs' arraignment was continued to April 2.

Jacobs has been charged with disorderly conduct, breaking a closure, and interfering with a government operation. He turned down a plea bargain that would have required him to plead guilty, pay \$1,000 in restitution, be placed on unsupervised probation for five years, and be banned from Yellowstone National Park for five years.

Comfrey chained himself to a gate that blocks the road to the park's Stephens Creek bison capture facility, just north of Gardiner. The facility was used to hold bison before they were shipped to slaughter. This year, Yellowstone shipped 258 bison to meat processing plants or Indian tribes for distribution of the meat. The roundup and shipment of bison was halted on Friday.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/yellowstone-bison-slaughter-protester-arraigned/article_31ab1ce6-c63e-5f38-b55e-fcd6923e1d9c.html#ixzz2vUi3kJI

WEATHER

NWS Riverton, WY

Zone Forecast: Yellowstone National Park **Last Update:** 830 AM MDT WED MAR 12 2014

Today: Sunny. Highs 31 to 37.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 9 to 15. Southwest winds around 15 mph after midnight.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 10 to 16. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Friday: Partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows around 20.

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, March 13, 2014



Republic Peak near Cooke City (photo by Joe Keel)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The **last courier for the winter season** will be **TOMORROW**. Rachel will ask folks to help her shuttle again for this final route. Rachel's number is x2272.

The Rideshare bus will be moving back to our new bus on Thursday evening 3/13/14. Don't forget to take any items you may have on the big bus. If you do leave something on the bus that you need, call Bob Hester at 2322 and we can take care of that.



Electric Peak Arts Council is presenting Trio Voronezh Friday March 14 at the Gardiner School – 7:00 pm. Tickets at the door. This classically trained trio plays traditional Russian folk instruments including the double-bass balalaika. Their diverse repertoire ranges from Bach, Vivaldi and Tchaikovsky, to Russian folk themes, bluegrass, Gypsy dance music, Argentine tangos, and popular Gershwin tunes. Please join us, you won't be disappointed!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=deRGgC-3RqQ>

Livingston HealthCare and Mammoth Clinic will be having a 2 day Spring Health Screening. This will take place at The Gardiner School on Tuesday March 18th from 6am to 9am and at The Mammoth Clinic on Wednesday March 19th from 7am to 9am.

The following services will be provided:

Vitamin D (\$25)

Evaluates for vitamin D deficiency; and/or to determine if supplementation is adequate.

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Blood Profile Testing (\$50)

Prostate Specific Antigen (\$15) Screening for Prostate Cancer.

ACA Navigator Consultation (free) A certified Navigator will be available to answer questions about the new health insurance. This will only be available On Tuesday March 18th at the Gardiner School.

Please call with any questions. Mammoth Clinic 307-344-7965 Livingston HealthCare 406-222-3541

Thanks and we hope to see you at the Health Fair!

Join us in **wishing Rebecca Garvoille, Yellowstone's Social Scientist, a fond farewell on Thursday, March 20th** beginning at noon at the Cowboy Grill in Gardiner, Montana. Please let Bianca Klein know you plan to attend so that enough seating can be arranged in advance.

Rebecca will be moving to Denver later this month to begin a post-doc research position at the Denver Zoo Conservation Biology Department. Best wishes to Rebecca, Michael, and Zernez on your move to the big city!

Upcoming CPR classes!



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

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

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](#)

EMPLOYEE RECREATION

Thursday, March 13th – Pickup Volleyball at 7:00 pm in the Mammoth Employee Recreation Hall.

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Thursday, March 13, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Area plows running at Canyon and Lake. Plows moving back to Norris.

Present Location:

Lake

Anticipated Destination:

Gibbon Area

Snow Conditions:

3', hard pack, no ice.

Weather:

Clear, 0 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Canyon to Lake

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS

Supreme Court rejects appeal in Park County bison case

Wednesday, March 12, 2014 5:25 pm

[Supreme Court rejects appeal in Park County bison case](#)

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

The Montana Supreme Court has rejected the appeal of the only plaintiff still challenging the expansion of bison winter range north of Yellowstone National Park.

On Tuesday, the Montana Supreme Court rejected Park County's appeal of a district judge's ruling that allowed bison to continue to roam in the Gardiner basin during the winter, as outlined in an Adaptive Management Adjustment to the Interagency Bison Management Plan.

Supreme Court Justice Beth Baker wrote that Park County appealed an issue that it hadn't raised in District Court, so the appeal had no standing.

Park County filed the appeal after Fergus County District Judge E. Wayne Phillips ruled in January 2013 that the Park County Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation and Park County had failed to show that the state — including then-Gov. Brian Schweitzer, and the departments of Livestock and Fish, Wildlife & Parks — had violated any law by expanding the winter territory for Yellowstone Park bison as far north as Yankee Jim Canyon.

Park County originally filed its own case claiming the bison created a public nuisance but then joined the other plaintiffs in a process known as “consolidation,” because all the cases dealt with the bison-area enlargement.

According to court documents, Park County made only the nuisance argument during the district court proceedings and filed no documents adopting any other claim.

In March 2013, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation indicated it would appeal the ruling. Park County joined the farm federation, but the Park County Stockgrowers Association chose not to appeal.

In October, the farm federation submitted a brief to the Supreme Court claiming Phillips hadn't properly considered a state law that places requirements on where FWP can transport bison.

Phillips ruled that the law did not apply to the natural migration of bison from the park.

A month later, the farm federation asked the Supreme Court to dismiss its appeal.

That left only Park County, which tried to continue the farm federation's case citing the Montana state law and not the nuisance argument it had made in district court.

Baker wrote that consolidation of cases does not allow one plaintiff to adopt the arguments of other plaintiffs at the high-court level if they didn't do so in the lower court.

That definition is supported by other rulings made by the Montana Supreme Court, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The issue, Baker wrote, is “whether Park County may appeal an issue it did not raise before the District Court. We hold that it may not.”

Park County District Attorney Brett Linneweber had pushed for the appeal but could not be reached for comment.

He resigned as the Park County attorney on Feb. 24 to become a deputy county attorney for Yellowstone County.

Park County commissioners appointed former Park County District Judge Nels Swandal to fill the vacancy until the November election. Swandal is also running for a state senate seat.

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Photo festival highlights sightings of rare cat

Posted: Friday, March 7, 2014 12:24 pm

[Photo festival highlights sightings of rare cat](#)

By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News

It was standing room only at the West Yellowstone Visitor Center Wednesday evening, as 10 local photographers shared their favorite winter images taken of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem at the sixth annual Yellowstone Winter Photo Festival.

More than 30 town visitors and locals came out for the event, making it one of the largest turnouts since the festival began in 2003. The annual event was sponsored by the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center and Yellowstone National Park.

“This was a pretty good turnout for winter,” Yellowstone National Park ranger Rich Jehle said. “It was nice to see visitors and not just locals, but all of the photographers were local.”

Photographers presented their best images of the winter, which highlighted landscape, wildlife and thermal feature photos.

Photographer and guide John Layshock explained how he’s continuing to experiment with night photography. Layshock presented unique photos of thermal features with painted light by using a flashlight.

Spending much of his time in the Bozeman area, Dennis Young’s slideshow of images featured ice climbing Palisade Falls in Hyalite Canyon, the Bridger Range and a rare photo of a pika.

“I thought I’d bring a change of pace and show some landscapes to look at different light,” Young said. “We all look for beautiful light.”

Mike Burdic presented his experimental images that featured a crystal ball, photos taken through sunglasses and a color-rich sunset photo taken at Hebgen Lake. Before ending, Burdic showed a humorous close-up photo of an elk with a pile of snow on its head taken at the end of the summer season in October.

“I think she was asking ‘Who threw the snowball,’” Burdic smiled.

The festival also had some newcomers this time around, as Joe Moore, Brian Lawatch and Connie Cusick presented.

Cusick’s slideshow showed viewers what it’s like to be a snowcoach guide in the winter, with numerous photos of drivers digging their stuck vehicles out of the snow bank. The series of photos were a big draw for the crowd that consisted heavily of Yellowstone guides.

Many presenters had at least one image of a bobcat in their series, as the illusive animal frequented the banks of the Madison River all winter. The animal has been spotted in past winters, but this year they were spotted almost daily, Jehle said.

“This year was remarkable,” he said. “I think it’s very unique to see a reclusive animal like that along the road.”

Jehle said many of the bobcat photos shown came from the same time and day, but that every photo was captured in the photographer’s own special way.

“Everyone had their own interpretation of it,” Jehle said. “A good photo tells a good story.”

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 825 AM MDT THU MAR 13 2014

Today: Sunny. Highs 35 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tonight: Clear. Lows 10 to 16. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Friday: Mostly sunny. Slight chance of snow in the morning...then slight chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs 35 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 14 to 20. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 12 to 18.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 14, 2014

My little buttercup.....



Ranger LA Dunworth spotted the first buttercups (*Ranunculus jovis*) of the season on March 10 on mildly influenced thermal ground. The frozen blooms were spotted on a walk around the Upper Terraces. Hillside buttercup (*R. jovis*) blooms earlier than the more common sage buttercup (*R. glaberimus*). Hillside buttercup is often found blooming at the foot of a melting snowbank with spring beauty (*Claytonia lanceolata*). Once they have flowered and set seeds, the roots plump up storing energy for the next year. Plants that bloom in the early spring or snowbank plants require the energy source stored in the roots from the previous year to emerge early in the spring. The earliest collection of hillside

buttercup in the park was collected in 1899 by Aven Nelson's students by the Thunderer. However, this collection is not in the Yellowstone Herbarium. Hillside buttercup is a rare plant in Montana but not in Wyoming. It is likely more common that botanist realize since it emerges so early in the spring.

Spring has sprung and everyone should be prepared for botanizing by carrying a hand lens, flower identification books, and bear spray.

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INCLUDES:

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP) to assess risk for diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, and hypertension; **Complete Blood Count (CBC)** to screen for disorders that affect blood cells; **Lipid Profile** to assess risk for heart disease; **TSH** to evaluate thyroid function. This is a fasting test, please consume only water after 8 pm the night before.

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Please call with any questions. Mammoth Clinic 307-344-7965 Livingston HealthCare 406-222-3541

Thanks and we hope to see you at the Health Fair!

Bonnie Gafney Whitman is retiring! Bonnie is making some tracks of her own! Come say congratulations to Bonnie on March 29, 5:30pm at the Povah Community Center, 10 S Geyser St, West Yellowstone, MT. There will be a \$10.00 cost for the catered food. For more information, contact Tara Ross at 406-581-1644 or at Tara_ross@nps.gov RSVP by March 23 please!

Join us in **wishing Rebecca Garvoille, Yellowstone's Social Scientist, a fond farewell on Thursday, March 20th** beginning at noon at the Cowboy Grill in Gardiner, Montana. Please let Bianca Klein know you plan to attend so that enough seating can be arranged in advance.

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WEATHER

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 654 AM MDT FRI MAR 14 2014

Today: Cloudy until late afternoon...then slight chance of rain and snow late in the afternoon. Cloudy with chance of snow and rain late in the afternoon. Highs 34 to 40. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Chance of snow early in the evening...then snow likely in the late evening and overnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows 12 to 18. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Saturday: Breezy. Cloudy with chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39. Northwest winds 15 to 20 mph until late afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 10 to 16.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 35 to 41. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 19 to 25.

Monday: Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 31 to 37.

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Monday, March 17, 2014



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Opening Update: Mammoth to Norris, Norris to Canyon, and Canyon to Lake all now OPEN to administrative travel.

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative Traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

Grand Teton National Park road crews will begin their annual spring plowing of the Teton Park Road from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain Lodge on Monday, March 24, 2014. As plowing operations get underway, recreation on this winter trail will cease for the season. Visitors may continue to use other winter trails, and/or areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road, for skate-skiing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing until conditions are no longer favorable. Snow removal will also begin on the Moose-Wilson Road, once work is concluded on the Teton Park Road.

For safety reasons, park visitors may NOT access the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working; the roadway is closed to ALL users during this time. Park rangers will enforce the temporary closure to all visitors to ensure safe conditions for plow operators and recreationalists.



Need a bit of mystery and adventure? Don't miss the Gardiner Elementary School play, **BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE**, 1:20 & 7pm, Friday, March 21 in the Gardiner School Multipurpose Room. Missoula Children's Theatre and the school's young actors will lead you on a musical search for hidden treasure! Sure to entertain. Free admission.

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Bonnie Gafney Whitman is retiring! Bonnie is making some tracks of her own! Come say congratulations to Bonnie on March 29, 5:30pm at the Povah Community Center, 10 S Geyser St, West Yellowstone, MT. There will be a \$10.00 cost for the catered food. For more information, contact Tara Ross at 406-581-1644 or at Tara_ross@nps.gov RSVP by March 23 please!

Join us in **wishing Rebecca Garvoille, Yellowstone's Social Scientist, a fond farewell on Thursday, March 20th** beginning at noon at the Cowboy Grill in Gardiner, Montana. Please let Bianca Klein know you plan to attend so that enough seating can be arranged in advance.

Rebecca will be moving to Denver later this month to begin a post-doc research position at the Denver Zoo Conservation Biology Department. Best wishes to Rebecca, Michael, and Zernez on your move to the big city!

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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](#)

IN THE NEWS

Interior Secretary discusses energy development, endangered species

Posted: Friday, March 14, 2014 10:15 pm

LAURA LUNDQUIST, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer

The Department of the Interior has plans for managing energy development on public lands, saving species and helping Native Americans, but in a time of constrained budgets, it's going to need help from the public, according to the Secretary of the Interior.

On Friday night, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell joined Sen. Jon Tester for a question-and-answer session on the future of public lands and endangered species as part of the Wheeler Center for the Exploration of Montana Issues lecture series.

Nicol Rae, dean of the College of Letters and Science, asked a wide range of questions dealing with Interior Department responsibilities before putting it out to the audience of more than 300 people in Gaines Hall at Montana State University.

On the perceived tug-of-war between conservation and development, Jewell said development and conservation could both exist if the interested parties would participate in thoughtful planning.

Jewell said many Montanans — sportsmen, conservationists, ranchers and farmers — have come to the table to find that middle ground.

As an example, she pointed to Montana's Crown of the Continent project with its conservation easements that help preserve a broader landscape to serve as wildlife migration corridors.

"It's that kind of landscape-level understanding that we have to do around the country and Montana is a model," Jewell said.

Tester said development, particularly energy development, needs to continue, but it should be done in an intelligent manner to keep some of the treasured parts of the state.

"There are some places where development would be a poor choice, the Rocky Mountain Front being one," Tester said. "If we aren't proactive about how we deal with these treasured landscapes, they will be gone."

Jewell, a former petroleum engineer, said that the Interior Department was trying to increase permitting for renewable energy projects on public lands — 50 have received permits since 2009 — to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels. But they have their own effects on wildlife, and the switch can't happen overnight.

The only order Jewell has issued so far is a directive to look at energy development and conservation swaps on a landscape scale. If development is allowed in one area, Jewell said, another pristine area should be set aside far enough away from the development that it won't be affected.

Tester agreed, adding that some North Dakota farmers told him that the thing that was missing from the Bakken oil fields was planning.

Going beyond that, Jewell said, the American public should endeavor to conserve more resources, whether it's water or energy, and demand more sustainable behavior from businesses.

"It's complicated, it's long term. But we're on a constructive track and we're going to continue," Jewell said. "But you'll continue to see conventional energy development. But we'll do it in a way that's safe and responsible."

Asked about Endangered Species Act listings such as the wolf and the sage grouse, Jewell said it is the area of greatest controversy in the Interior Department, but the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must be dispassionate and use the best available science.

The delisting of the gray wolf was proposed because the species is not in danger of going extinct, even though it hasn't been fully restored to its historic range, Jewell said.

"Emotions run high around the ESA on both sides. But it is a law that has been very effective in opening our eyes to our ecosystems and their interdependencies," Jewell said.

The Department of the Interior and all the agencies it oversees — the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the bureaus of Land Management, Reclamation and Indian Affairs — are facing three difficult trends, Jewell said: constrained financial resources, climate change and upcoming generations that are more disconnected from the outdoors.

Knowing that a significant amount of the department's workforce is eligible for retirement within five years, Jewell said she has a four-tiered plan to get youth more engaged in the outdoor recreation. But she asked the audience to help get youth interested.

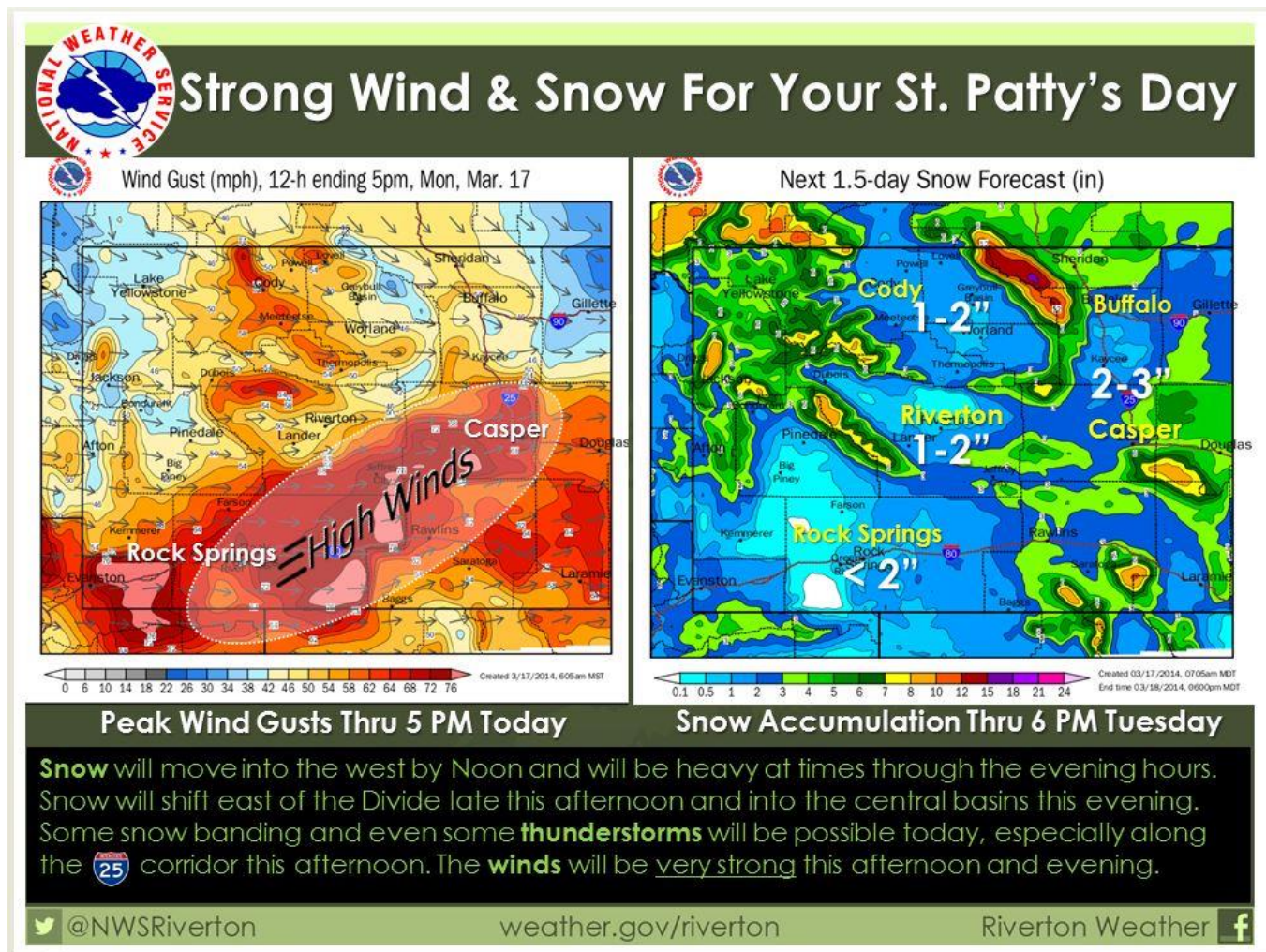
"We are seeing a growing disconnect on every level between children and nature. It's a huge problem," Jewell said. "I am charging my colleagues to prioritize programs that welcome young people in."

Jewell was making a brief tour of Montana after a week of witnessing the struggles of farmers and cities during California's devastating drought.

The discussion will be broadcast within a few weeks on Montana PBS.

WEATHER

Winter Weather Advisory until 9PM



NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 554 AM MDT MON MAR 17 2014

Today: Windy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow in the afternoon. Areas of blowing snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 27 to 33. West winds 20 to 30 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...cloudy. Areas of blowing snow in the evening. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 5 inches. Lows 6 to 12. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph until early morning. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 20 to 26. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 5 to 11. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.
Wednesday Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, March 18, 2014



Sunday morning breakfast at the Tower Corrals (photo by Karin Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ever wonder what it looks like out in the field as the **road crew starts the long process of opening the roads** to vehicles? While you folks snowbound in the interior locations count down the days, hours, and minutes till the plows reach your doorstep, check out this video of the crew in action!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6gLNuHpKp8>

Grand Teton National Park road crews will begin their annual spring plowing of the Teton Park Road from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain Lodge on Monday, March 24, 2014. As plowing operations get underway, recreation on this winter trail will cease for the season. Visitors may continue to use other winter trails, and/or areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road, for skate-skiing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing until conditions are no longer favorable. Snow removal will also begin on the Moose-Wilson Road, once work is concluded on the Teton Park Road.

For safety reasons, park visitors may NOT access the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working; the roadway is closed to ALL users during this time. Park rangers will enforce the temporary closure to all visitors to ensure safe conditions for plow operators and recreationalists.

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Need a bit of mystery and adventure? Don't miss the Gardiner Elementary School play, **BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE**, 1:20 & 7pm, Friday, March 21 in the Gardiner School Multipurpose Room. Missoula Children's Theatre and the school's young actors will lead you on a musical search for hidden treasure! Sure to entertain. Free admission.

Mountain Mobile Glass Repair will be at the Mammoth Garage on Thursday 3/20/14 at approximately 9:00 a.m. If you need glass repaired or replaced please contact Bob or Tom in the parts department at x2322 or x2321.

Livingston HealthCare and Mammoth Clinic will be having a Spring Health Screening. This will take place at The Mammoth Clinic on Wednesday March 19th from 7am to 9am.

The following services will be provided:

Vitamin D (\$25)

Evaluates for vitamin D deficiency; and/or to determine if supplementation is adequate.

Hemoglobin A1c (\$20) The A1c test is used to monitor the glucose control of diabetics over time.

INCLUDES:

Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP) to assess risk for diabetes, liver disease, kidney disease, and hypertension; **Complete Blood Count (CBC)** to screen for disorders that affect blood cells; **Lipid Profile** to assess risk for heart disease; **TSH** to evaluate thyroid function. This is a fasting test, please consume only water after 8 pm the night before.

Blood Profile Testing (\$50)

Prostate Specific Antigen (\$15) Screening for Prostate Cancer.

ACA Navigator Consultation (free) A certified Navigator will be available to answer questions about the new health insurance. This will only be available On Tuesday March 18th at the Gardiner School.

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SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Tuesday, March 18, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Area plows running at Canyon and Lake. Plows between Gibbon Meadows and Madison.

Present Location:
Madison

Anticipated Destination:
7 Mile Bridge

Snow Conditions:
2', packed hard ice.

Weather:
Clear, 9 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 17, 2014 - Closed to Norris to Madison

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 – Closed to Madison to West

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS

Proposal: Montana will let bison into new areas — if population is reduced

20 hours ago • By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

Bison from Yellowstone National Park would be allowed to remain year-round in new areas of Montana if their numbers were reduced below recent levels, according to a proposal up for a Tuesday vote by the state Board of Livestock.

The draft proposal would allow bison, also known as buffalo, to roam year-round across more than 400,000 acres in Montana whenever the population totals 3,300 or fewer animals. That includes some areas without any bison now, such as the Taylor Fork of the Gallatin River, and other locations where the animals have been allowed only during winter.

But bison movements would be increasingly restricted when the number of animals is higher. For example, if the population exceeds 4,000 animals, no new areas would be open to bison.

Wildlife advocates have lobbied for decades to allow more bison to migrate from the park during winter. Yet Montana's livestock industry has opposed lifting bison restrictions because of worries about disease and competition between bison and cattle for grazing space.

State veterinarian Marty Zaluski said the latest proposal aims to ensure that bison in new areas don't add to existing problems, such as the risk of disease transmissions to cattle and conflicts with private property owners.

David Hallac, Yellowstone's chief scientist, said he had not received the state's proposal until Monday and would need time to review it.

A representative of a conservation group that wants more bison hunting opportunities said state officials should focus on how many bison could live in Montana, not how many should be in Yellowstone.

"They're trying to assert authority over a national park," said Glenn Hockett, president of the Gallatin Wildlife Association. "It's irrelevant if there's 10,000 bison in the park in my mind. It's what your tolerance is for bison in Montana."

Park biologists counted 4,600 Yellowstone bison last summer. That was before hunting and shipments of bison to slaughter removed more than 630 of the animals over the past several months.

The population last dropped below 3,300 in 2009, after more than 1,600 bison were captured and shipped to slaughter or killed by hunters during the prior winter. The capture and slaughter program operates under a 2000 agreement between state and federal officials that sharply limits the animals' periodic migrations into Montana.

The proposal to link bison movements to population size was developed jointly by the Department of Livestock and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It came after livestock board members in January said population numbers needed to be considered when deciding where bison should be allowed in the state.

Population levels would be determined through an annual count conducted after hunting and other population reduction activities were over for the winter and prior to the spring calving season.

State officials said the proposal is a draft document that livestock board members can alter.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/proposal-montana-will-let-bison-into-new-areas-if-population/article_9ad0a57e-2d48-5792-82ce-4e5519dfa6a5.html#ixzz2wKVWdITn

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Report reveals details of Cooke City avalanche death

5 hours ago • By Brett French

The mountains around Cooke City were lethal last week.

Two people died — one in an avalanche and the other in a snowmobile accident — and one Canadian rider was severely injured on Saturday, breaking both legs and dislocating his knees.

“One search and rescue member said that’s the worst week he can remember,” said Eric Knoff, of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

Memorial services were planned Tuesday for 18-year-old Zach Junkermeier, of Lake Lillian, Minn. A track and football athlete who grew up on a dairy farm west of Minneapolis, he died in a massive avalanche on March 11. The slide bulldozed down the northwest side of 10,211-foot Crown Butte, a well-known area landmark that overshadows a wide, picturesque alpine basin.

The funeral service is all the more tragic because the avalanche center had issued a backcountry warning for its entire forecasting area of southwestern Montana on the morning before the accident.

“Very dangerous avalanche conditions exist. Travel in avalanche terrain is not recommended and avalanche runout zones should be avoided,” the advisory noted.

“I don’t think they quite knew the beast that they were dealing with,” Knoff said.

Hazard warning

In the center’s report on the avalanche, released on Monday, the details of the incident are revealed. The party of seven Minnesota snowmobilers had been advised that day that the center had rated the avalanche danger as high.

“They talked to the manager of their hotel that morning and he recommended that they not go out,” Knoff said. “They were aware of the hazard.”

Although none of them had avalanche rescue beacons, probes or shovels, the decision was made that riding would be OK if the snowmobilers avoided avalanche terrain, riding in the trees and meadows.

In the morning, the riders stuck to the game plan. But the more they rode, and the more they saw other riders climbing the mountains or saw tracks high up the side of Crown Butte, that initial caution evaporated.

Around 4 p.m., Junkermeier rode his snowmobile about a third of the way up the side of Crown Butte to an elevation of about 9,600 feet. At that point his snowmobile either stalled or he stopped to take in the vast view of the surrounding mountain peaks and snowy valley below. He was last seen pulling his snowmobile's starter cord.

"His greatest wish in life was to ride his snowmobile out West," his obituary reads. "It is all he ever talked about."

As Junkermeier sat on the side of the mountain, two fellow riders rode uphill past him on both sides and the avalanche released. Junkermeier was directly below where the avalanche initially broke loose.

Hair trigger

"It's just amazing how these things work," Knoff said. "There are tons and tons of snow all peacefully resting on the side of a mountain, and all it takes is a couple hundred pounds of a snowmachine and a rider to set all of that loose."

Once the snowpack begins to collapse, the fracture can spread at speeds up to 100 mph.

"It covers a huge slope in no time," Knoff said. "You don't have much time to deal with it."

The snow fractured because buried beneath was a layer of sugary snow with crystals 6 to 10 millimeters in size, called depth hoar. Normal snow crystals are smaller, 1 to 3 mm. The crystals grew large during extremely cold days in early December, before being buried by later snow. Plenty of snow had fallen recently, although the snowpack on that side of Crown Butte remained relatively thin. At the time of the accident, a nearby snow monitoring site recorded 11 feet of snowfall. In the 24 hours before the avalanche, 14 to 20 inches of very heavy snow had fallen, adding to the pressure on the weak layer and prompting the avalanche alert.

Once the snow released, the avalanche spread across the length of two football fields and up to 5 feet deep. The snow rumbled downhill for a third of a mile at speeds of 40 to 55 mph, finally coming to rest across 8 acres of the valley floor and ranging in depth from 5 to 15 feet deep.

Avalanches condense and compact the snow into a consistency that's often compared to concrete. According to the center's report, "Avalanche debris can weigh 600-800 pounds per cubic yard." A cubic yard is equal to about nine wheelbarrow loads.

"The amount of weight in that debris is enormous," Knoff said.

Deadly week

Junkermeier was carried about 500 feet downhill and buried under 6 feet of snow. When he was found more than an hour later as more than 50 people probed the snow, he was already dead, probably from trauma suffered during the avalanche. The next day, his helmet and snowmobile were found 15 feet away.

The two riders who had passed him going up the slope were able to outrun the avalanche. Of the many riders in the meadow below, a few had their snowmobiles caught by the slide but were uninjured.

“It’s really too bad,” Knoff said. “And the fact that people kept climbing in the following days is something that’s hard to explain.”

Two days later, 48-year-old Brian MacPherson of Martensville, Saskatchewan, died when he attempted to jump a creek on his snowmobile just to the northwest of where Junkermeier had been killed.

On Saturday, another Canadian rider suffered two broken legs and dislocated knees when he was caught in an avalanche while descending the south side of nearby Mount Abundance with another rider. He was buried except for his head.

“One of the guys was able to just throttle it and ride off the slab,” Knoff said. “The other guy was bucked off of his sled and apparently hit a tree or was caught in the trees. A large group of people saw him and immediately dug him out. The rescue was pretty quick.”

Also on Saturday, a snowmobiler triggered a slide below Chimney Rock near Daisy Pass and deployed a personal airbag, which acts like a balloon to keep the avalanche victim near the top of the snow. The rider was amazingly uninjured as he was shot out the toe of the debris.

More snow forecast

On Monday, another 3 to 6 inches of heavy, wet snow was predicted in the mountains across much of southwestern Montana. With avalanche danger already rated considerable on slopes steeper than 35 degrees in the Cooke City area, Knoff was thankful that the visibility was so poor that it might keep riders out of the mountains for the day.

The tragedy of last week’s avalanche death is that in some ways, it seems so preventable. The riders were warned not to go. The center had issued a backcountry alert — its highest warning.

“But coming from Minnesota, I don’t think they really knew what a high avalanche danger means,” Knoff said.

Such tragedies prompt the question: Should more be done to educate or regulate snowmobilers who ride in avalanche terrain? Hunters have to go through hunter education to learn safety rules; backpackers are required to view a video before camping in Yellowstone National Park’s grizzly and black bear habitat; motorcyclists are required to pass a driving test before being licensed. But there’s nothing similar for snowmobilers, no program to inform them how dangerous avalanche terrain can be or how important it is to carry beacons and rescue gear in the mountains.

Knoff said that even if there were such requirements for snowmobilers, there’s no way to enforce them. And Americans have long been known for shunning government regulation, such as believing it’s their right to ride a motorcycle without a helmet.

“Zach had a zest for life, a wide-open future, and love in his heart,” reads his obituary. “We are filled with joy that he got the chance to live out his biggest adventure. Ride with the wind, Zach. You are free to jump as high and as hard as you want now.”

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/report-reveals-details-of-cooke-city-avalanche-death/article_1973b075-c9dd-5074-b04c-3e3f415af710.html#ixzz2wKTk8aRc

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Yellowstone in winter offers great opportunities to watch wildlife

March 16, 2014 12:00 am • Story and Photos By LLOYD BLUNK

I love to photograph in Yellowstone National Park, but aside from bison, my pictures have been of the landscape rather than the wildlife.

The couple of times that I have gone out to find animals, I was usually thwarted by a lack of animals.

So in the interest of bettering my skills as a photographer and videographer, I took a trip with Ken Sinay of Yellowstone Safari Co. Sinay has spent the past 20 years guiding people into the park and helping them find those amazing wildlife encounters.

He agreed to let me tag along with him to share a few of his tricks.

The gear

Before going into the park, you might want to invest in a few key items to better help you see the animals.

Spotting scope: You don't have to break the bank on one, but if you want it to last longer than a single trip, then you might consider a scope that starts in the \$100 range. The scopes are invaluable for getting an intimate look at Yellowstone's wildlife. A wolf pack on the opposite range across a long valley looks like little spots with the naked eye, but with a good scope you can see all the action as the pack plays and hunts. Some wildlife watchers even use their scopes with their smartphones to capture images of far-off animals.

Binoculars: These are great for quickly scanning the landscape and spotting animals. Once you have spotted them with the binoculars, you can set up your scope to really get up close.

In the end though, your best tools for finding wildlife will be your own senses. Always be alert and listen for signs of wildlife. The howl of the wolf, the bark of a coyote or fox, or the call of an eagle will often be the first indicator to stop and start scanning with your eyes.

"Whenever we are looking for wildlife, we are always looking for the same three things: The odd color, the odd shape, or movement. And movement is the easiest thing to see on the landscape to tell us that something is alive out there," Sinay said.

Plan your trip for winter

Unless you absolutely have to see bears, then plan your Yellowstone Wildlife Safari in the winter, especially February around Valentine's Day. Keying on the movement of wildlife is much easier against the backdrop of the white snow.

"On a snow-covered landscape ... several 100-pound wolves, many of them black, can be highly visible," Sinay said.

The snow makes even neophyte trackers look like experts, as fresh animal tracks are impossible to miss. Fresh tracks in new snow indicate that animals are in the area, so you might want to take the time to stop and scan.

Winter weather also forces large grazing animals such as elk and bighorn sheep to seek easier grazing lands. Sheep descend from their lofty summer perches in Yellowstone's Northern Range to the hillsides along

Yellowstone's roadways. Elk congregate into larger herds — sometimes into the thousands — in the valleys making for an impressive show.

Early bird gets the wolf

For the best opportunity to see animals while they are up and about, then you will need to be out from sun-up to around 10 a.m. After that, the animals begin to bed down for the day and finding them begins to become more difficult. When you do spot them in the midday, they tend to be more lethargic and less entertaining.

February gives wildlife watchers a bit more time to watch active animals, because many animals are in their mating season. Mating animals tend to be more active in the day during this time, and you increase your chances of seeing a mating couple's interactions.

Scavenger birds as indicators

A carcass can be one of the best the places to witness animal interactions in Yellowstone. A wolf pack may kill an elk, but if the opportunity presents itself, then coyotes, birds and even a fox may try to sneak a meal. The easiest way to find a carcass is to look for large congregations of ravens. If you see a large group in the trees, there is a good chance you will find an animal feeding on a carcass below the ravens.

Watch for wolf watchers

If your goal is to find wolves, your best bet might be to seek out Yellowstone's wolf watchers. They are an unofficial group of amateurs and professionals who make it their mission to find the wolves on a daily basis. If you see a group of people parked along the sides of the road with spotting scopes, high-end camera lenses, and large radio antennae extending from the tops of their vehicles, you have likely stumbled upon the wolf watchers. They are friendly group of wolf enthusiasts who are happy to share their wolf experiences with tourists in order to promote a deeper appreciation for the wolves.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-in-winter-offers-great-opportunities-to-watch-wildlife/article_154b1e4a-644e-5b43-bcf0-3eeaa236657c.html#ixzz2wKWbIMH5

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 830 AM MDT TUE MAR 18 2014

Today Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow early in the morning...then chance of snow showers early in the afternoon. Slight chance of snow showers late in the afternoon. Highs 23 to 29. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 50 percent.

Tonight Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers in the evening... Then partly cloudy after midnight. Lows 5 to 11. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 27 to 33. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday Night Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29. West winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday Night Colder. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 3 to 9.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, March 19, 2014



Why did the bison cross the river?
(photo by Amy Bartlett)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carbon monoxide monitors: If you have a carbon monoxide (CO) monitor installed in your residential or work area and the alarm sounds, remember:

Never ignore a CO alarm! It is warning you of a potentially deadly hazard.

If the alarm signal sounds, **do not try to find the source of the CO:**

- o Immediately move outside to fresh air.
- o Call 911.
- o After calling 911, do a head count to check that all persons are accounted for. DO NOT reenter the premises until the emergency services responders have given you permission. You could lose consciousness and die if you go in the home.
- o If the source of the CO is determined to be a malfunctioning appliance, DO NOT operate that appliance until it has been properly serviced by trained personnel.
- o Replace batteries in CO detectors every 6 months.

- For more information concerning carbon monoxide, please visit the Employee Safety Committee SharePoint site at: <http://inpyellshare/emsc/Shared%20Documents/CO%20Safety%20Info.pdf>

Ever wonder what it looks like out in the field as the **road crew starts the long process of opening the roads** to vehicles? While you folks snowbound in the interior locations count down the days, hours, and minutes till the plows reach your doorstep, check out this video of the crew in action!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6gLNuHpKp8>

Grand Teton National Park road crews will begin their annual spring plowing of the Teton Park Road from Taggart Lake parking area to Signal Mountain Lodge on Monday, March 24, 2014. As plowing operations get underway, recreation on this winter trail will cease for the season. Visitors may continue to use other winter trails, and/or areas adjacent to the Teton Park Road, for skate-skiing, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing until conditions are no longer favorable. Snow removal will also begin on the Moose-Wilson Road, once work is concluded on the Teton Park Road.

For safety reasons, park visitors may NOT access the Teton Park Road while rotary snow removal equipment and plows are working; the roadway is closed to ALL users during this time. Park rangers will enforce the temporary closure to all visitors to ensure safe conditions for plow operators and recreationalists.

Join us in **wishing Rebecca Garvoille, Yellowstone's Social Scientist, a fond farewell TOMORROW** beginning at noon at the Cowboy Grill in Gardiner, Montana. Please let Bianca Klein know you plan to attend so that enough seating can be arranged in advance.

Rebecca will be moving to Denver later this month to begin a post-doc research position at the Denver Zoo Conservation Biology Department. Best wishes to Rebecca, Michael, and Zernez on your move to the big city!



Need a bit of mystery and adventure? Don't miss the Gardiner Elementary School play, **BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE**, 1:20 & 7pm, Friday, March 21 in the Gardiner School Multipurpose Room. Missoula Children's Theatre and the school's young actors will lead you on a musical search for hidden treasure! Sure to entertain. Free admission.

Mountain Mobile Glass Repair will be at the Mammoth Garage **TOMORROW** at approximately 9:00 a.m. If you need glass repaired or replaced please contact Bob or Tom in the parts department at x2322 or x2321.

Bonnie Gafney Whitman is retiring! Bonnie is making some tracks of her own! Come say congratulations to Bonnie on March 29, 5:30pm at the Povah Community Center, 10 S Geyser St, West Yellowstone, MT. There will be a \$10.00 cost for the catered food. For more information, contact Tara Ross at 406-581-1644 or at Tara_ross@nps.gov RSVP by March 23 please!

Upcoming CPR classes!

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

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

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

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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>

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Wednesday, March 19, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Area plows running at Canyon and Lake. Plows between Madison and West Entrance.

Present Location:
7 Mile Bridge

Anticipated Destination:
Madison

Snow Conditions:
2', packed hard ice.

Weather:
Clear, 0 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 – Closed to Madison to West

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - Norris to Madison at 8 AM

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Seeks Information on Illegal Bison Shootings

Yellowstone National Park is asking for the public's help in identifying who was responsible for illegally shooting and killing three bison inside the park last week.

Park rangers determined the bison were likely shot between the evening of March 13 and morning of March 15 alongside the road in the Blacktail Plateau area of northern Yellowstone.

A reward of up to \$5,000 is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual(s) responsible for the crime. Anyone with information is requested to call the Yellowstone National Park Tip Line at 307-344-2132.

The Lacey Act and the Code of Federal Regulations strictly prohibit the killing or removal of any animal from inside Yellowstone. This includes animals shot legally outside the park that cross into and die within the park boundary. Taking and removing any animal parts, including shed antlers, is also prohibited.

Violators are investigated and aggressively prosecuted, and are subject to penalties including fines, restitution, and the forfeiture of vehicles, equipment and personal property associated with the violations.

IN THE NEWS

Montana livestock board waits on bison proposal

Posted: Tuesday, March 18, 2014 5:47 pm

[Montana livestock board waits on bison proposal](#)

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

The Montana Board of Livestock wants more information before approving a compromise that would let bison roam west of Yellowstone National Park throughout the year.

On Tuesday, after considering a proposal to accept the opening of a new bison-tolerance zone outside West Yellowstone as long as the park limited the bison population, the Board of Livestock voted to take no action.

For now, the board's stance remains as it was left on Jan. 14, when the members voted to reject the plan to allow bison to occupy up to 421,000 acres of federal, state and private land northwest of the park.

The proposal that Department of Livestock Executive Director Christian MacKay and Fish, Wildlife & Parks Region 3 Supervisor Pat Flowers presented Tuesday would have allowed bison to roam outside the park in both the Gardiner and West Yellowstone areas as long as the park population was less than 3,300.

Once the population exceeded 3,300, both areas would become more restricted. At 4,000 animals, tolerance would cease in both areas, according to the proposal.

At the end of the summer, biologists estimated the park population at about 4,600.

Bison are already legally occupying the enlarged region around the Gardiner Basin during the winter. Bison were cleared to roam that area after a district court judge ruled in January 2013 that the state had not violated any law by creating the area.

The board asked MacKay to provide additional information at its next meeting before deciding on the proposal.

MacKay said he and Flowers would work more detail into the proposal in the meantime.

“I think it's important to note that they didn't reject it,” MacKay said. “The costs would probably be the big one as far as holding things up.”

The board members wanted to know the funding sources for activities related to the plan, whether the state veterinarian or the governor would have authority, and the costs to livestock producers throughout the Designated Surveillance Area.

The DSA is a large region in southwest Montana surrounding the park where brucellosis is reported to exist in elk, cattle and bison. The bison area in the proposed plan is a fraction of the DSA, and just a few landowners in the proposed area lease their property to cattle producers.

Some environmental groups, including the Gallatin Wildlife Association and the Defenders of Wildlife, opposed the 3,300 bison limitation.

“The proposal is the opposite of what should be happening — it makes no sense,” said Defenders of Wildlife spokesman Jonathan Proctor. “When the numbers in the park are larger, that's when bison should be allowed outside the park to help with management through the use of tribal and regular hunts. To do what (the board wants) would be to force the park service to continue sending bison to slaughter.”

Yellowstone National Park suspended capture-and-slaughter operations near Gardiner on March 7, after more than 630 bison had been either removed or killed by hunters.

WSA president Glenn Hockett doubted that the tribes would support the proposal because it could affect their ability to hunt bison outside the park.

MacKay said the proposal would become part of the adaptive management strategy of the Interagency Bison Management Plan. That means the population numbers could change in the future as managers learn from experience and new scientific findings.

“The future is uncertain — that's why you start low and learn,” MacKay said. “The numbers could increase, but maybe in some areas we learn that tolerance isn't a good fit.”

FWP published an environmental assessment in July proposing the year-round bison area near West Yellowstone. The area includes the Hebgen Basin, the Cabin Creek Recreation and Wildlife Management Unit, the Monument Mountain Unit and the southern Gallatin River corridor.

Public comment on the assessment ended Sept. 13. Almost 120,000 comments were received.

Wildlife groups favored Alternative B, which allowed bison to roam year-round in the Gallatin National Forest between West Yellowstone and the Taylor Fork drainage to the north. It would also allow bull bison to stay year-round in the recently enlarged area north of Gardiner.

Livestock groups favored the no-action alternative approved by the Board of Livestock.

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Wenk updates trustees, community on PILT repayment

[Wenk updates trustees, community on PILT repayment](#)

By Mike Moore West Yellowstone News

Yellowstone National Park officials joined a large audience of community members and educators Tuesday evening to explain the current status of PILT repayment during a regular school board meeting. Park superintendent Dan Wenk, deputy superintendent Steve Iobst and acting chief of administration Zack Allely were in attendance at the meeting, with Wenk explaining the bulk of the situation to trustees.

Wenk gave background information into how this all began last fall when the sequestration hit Yellowstone hard with budget cuts and a 16-day shutdown.

“We looked at the revenue string and expenditures to make sure we were compliant,” Wenk said.

Since 1948, schools in West Yellowstone and Gardiner have received annual payments from the Department of the Interior meant to compensate the districts for educating students who live in Yellowstone National Park.

In 1976, Congress authorized PILT payments to counties around Yellowstone, so West Yellowstone and Gardiner schools were technically no longer allowed their annual payments from the park. Even though the districts were no longer allowed payments, the money continued to be sent on an annual basis until 2011. The district didn’t receive payments since then due to the fact an invoice had never been sent, and payments cannot go out unless there is an invoice received, Allely said.

Allely found the payment issue fairly quickly, and on Jan. 7, determined the NPS was not authorized to make payments, because payments-in-lieu-of-taxes, or PILT, money had been paid to those counties since 1977.

“It negated the 1948 law when the 1977 law went into effect,” Wenk said.

The park superintendent told trustees that the West Yellowstone School District owes \$863,000, which is a far cry from what Gardiner Schools owes, roughly \$8 million. He went on to add that the Park Service doesn’t have the intention of making the districts repay the money, but federal law requires them to get the money back if possible.

“We hope it gets resolved if you do get a bill,” Wenk said. “The only way it can be resolved is with a bill.”

On March 7, a news release stated that Rep. Jon Tester, Rep. Steve Daines and Rep. John Walsh recently called on the Interior Department secretary Sally Jewell to speak directly with district leaders to find a better solution for the schools and students. Tester, Walsh and Daines introduced the Yellowstone Community Education Fairness Act, which would keep the government from trying to collect the overpayments.

“Asking these school districts to return funds that were awarded over 30 years ago is simply unfair,” Tester said in the press release. “These rural school districts do not have the resources to return that money. And they shouldn’t have to.”

If it turns out the district will receive a bill, the only solution would come from legislation, Wenk said. He went on to add that the Park Service wants this resolved just as quickly as the school district, and ideally, legislation will fix the issue.

“We want it resolved in a fair, honest manner,” he said. “We value our relationships with the gateway communities and the children within the park,” he said. “We don’t want this to be a problem between the gateway communities and the park.”

If legislation does not come to pass and fix the repayment requirement, superintendent Lael Calton says the district still has options to be forgiven of the debt.

“We can write a letter to the Department of Justice and ask for debt forgiveness,” she said. “If that doesn’t work, we have an attorney.”

Calton went on to add that she isn’t overly concerned with the issue, but that she wishes it had never happened.

“I wish it would go away,” she said.

Board chair Maggie Anderson stated that repayment would set the district back quite a bit if it came to be; however, the bigger issue is the absence of \$18,000-\$20,000 a year the district is used to receiving.

“The bigger impact is the funds that we no longer get,” she said.

The board thanked the Yellowstone administrators for attending the meeting and further explaining the situation.

In other new business, trustees tabled K-6 principal and activities director Kevin Flanagan’s contract after unanimously agreeing that Flanagan’s requested 10-percent wage increase was too much.

Flanagan stated in a letter that he looked at salaries and benefits from principals around the region, and when considering what he would be making based on the teachers’ matrix and West Yellowstone’s high cost of living, he believed the salary increase was reasonable. Flanagan included salaries of surrounding schools in the district, of which most were considerably higher than his yearly salary request of \$55,000.

“It’s a very large pay increase and the comparison to the matrix is unfair; you gave up the matrix when you left your teaching job and became an administrator,” trustee John Gospodarek said.

Gospodarek also denounced Flanagan’s reasoning for higher cost of living for the pay increase, stating that reason has not been successful in negotiating contracts in the past, and it would be unfair to start now.

“Any wage increase starts at the beginning of the fiscal year and (Flanagan’s) first check with any increase would begin in September,” Calton said. “He’s putting in 207 (work) days, and working 12-15 full Saturdays (as the activities director); he’s working more than 207 days.”

Trustee Kelly Burden said Flanagan has been doing a good job in his new position, but didn’t see the logic in a 10- percent increase, as Flanagan still has training to complete this summer and hasn’t worked a full year in the new position.

“All in all, I looked at everything and my feeling is that I’m willing to do a five percent increase for \$52,500,” Kelly said. “That way you’ll be making a little more than you would be as a teacher.”

Trustee Rachael Burden agreed, stating she would like to pay Flanagan as much as other districts are paying their principals, but said the 10-percent raise was too much.

“As a district, we don’t have the money to throw around,” Rachael said. “I don’t think it’s a precedent we want to set.”

Trustees agreed to table the item, which will be addressed at a special board meeting on Wednesday, March 19, at noon in the school library.

In other new business, a letter of support for the West Yellowstone Community Aquatic center was signed and approved by trustees. Trustees also approved a grading scale revision for the 2014-15 school year.

Teacher Jo Stevens was also unanimously approved to be hired as the junior high track coach for the upcoming track season.

District clerk Bunnie Weickum announced that all petitions for school board positions are due by noon on March 27. Those who wish to withdraw their petition must do so by 4 p.m. on March 28. The two positions up for election are Archer and Anderson’s three-year positions.

Food Roundup, Marc Sheppard, Kevin Conlon, Nubia Allen, Todd Atchley, Sarah Hanson, Vickie Barta, Business Professionals of America and the Science Bowl Team were all recognized before wrapping up the meeting.

The next regular school board meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the school’s art room. A special meeting regarding Flanagan’s contract will be held Wednesday, March 19, at noon in the school’s library.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park
Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY
Last Update: 916 AM MDT WED MAR 19 2014

Today Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows 12 to 18. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday Breezy. Partly cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers in the morning...then chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 27 to 33. West winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Thursday Night Colder. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 3 to 9. Northwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Friday Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 23 to 29.

Friday Night Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 5 to 11.

- - - - -

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, March 20, 2014



Jay-walking or turkey-walking in Silver Gate, MT?
(photo by Tom Schwartz)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carbon monoxide monitors: If you have a carbon monoxide (CO) monitor installed in your residential or work area and the alarm sounds, remember:

Never ignore a CO alarm! It is warning you of a potentially deadly hazard.

If the alarm signal sounds, **do not try to find the source of the CO:**

- o Immediately move outside to fresh air.
- o Call 911.
- o After calling 911, do a head count to check that all persons are accounted for. DO NOT reenter the premises until the emergency services responders have given you permission. You could lose consciousness and die if you go in the home.
- o If the source of the CO is determined to be a malfunctioning appliance, DO NOT operate that appliance until it has been properly serviced by trained personnel.
- o Replace batteries in CO detectors every 6 months.

- For more information concerning carbon monoxide, please visit the Employee Safety Committee SharePoint site at: <http://inpyellshare/emsc/Shared%20Documents/CO%20Safety%20Info.pdf>

As of April 1, Tina Holland will be handing over the coordination of parkwide uniforms to the division of Resource Education and Youth Programs. **Clare Cloghessy** will be the new contact and can be reached at x2581. The uniform cache will remain in the MABO office at the garage until other arrangements can be made.

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click on <Employee Info>
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Upcoming CPR classes!



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

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

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

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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](#)

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Status as of Thursday, March 20, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Plows at 7 Mile Bridge, still working on the ice from Madison to West. Area plows running at Canyon and Lake.

Present Location:

7 Mile Bridge

Anticipated Destination:

Mesa Lake Pit

Snow Conditions:

2', packed hard ice.

Weather:

Clear, 28 degrees.

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 748 AM MDT THU MAR 20 2014

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Highs 30 to 36. West winds 15 to 25 mph.

Tonight Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers.
Lows zero to 6 above zero. Northwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Friday Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 23 to 29.

Friday Night Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 2 to 8.

Saturday Partly cloudy. Scattered flurries in the afternoon. Highs 24 to 30.

Saturday Night Mostly clear. Lows 9 to 15.

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There will be a **Basic Aviation Safety Training** (B3) April 10 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the fire cache training room for anyone who believes they will be an air crew member on flights this summer. This means you are more than the incidental firefighter or search and rescue person who may get on a helicopter or fixed wing aircraft. If you have already taken this class in the classroom you are required to refresh every 3 years on line now under the new A100 format. Please set up your IAT profile before coming to class at www.IAT.gov You may sign up with Laura Dooley at x2181 or by email.

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CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 18, 2014 – Closed to Madison to West.

ROAD FROM MADISON TO WEST WILL BE OPEN TO ADMIN TRAVEL THROUGH THEWEEKEND, USE CAUTION AS THERE IS STILL HARD PACKED ICE ON THAT SECTION OF ROAD. USE EXTREME CAUTION! ONCE WEATHER CLEARS UP, EQUIPMENT WILL BE BACK ON THAT SECTION OF ROAD TO PEEL ICE.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - Norris to Madison at 8 AM

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS

-- Bison killers sought: 3 animals shot to death inside Yellowstone park

(IDAHO STATE JOURNAL [POCATELLO])

http://www.idahostatejournal.com/members/bison-killers-sought-three-animals-killed-in-yellowstone-park/article_3c5ca0fe-b00a-11e3-99bd-001a4bcf887a.html

-- Lake trout numbers continue to fall in Yellowstone

(BILLINGS [MT] GAZETTE)

http://billingsgazette.com/lifestyles/recreation/wyoming-outdoors-lake-trout-numbers-continue-to-fall-in-yellowstone/article_4b78e106-0001-5906-aceb-59e21b069ad0.html

-- Gardiner, MT school district finds temporary funding solution to loss of Yellowstone park payments and demand for repayment (w/news video)

(KTVM-TV [BUTTE/BOZEMAN] via NBC MONTANA network affiliates' joint website)

<http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/gardiner-school-district-finds-temporary-funding-solution/25062200>

-- Montana back to drawing board on Yellowstone bison roaming after state livestock panel declines to act

(THE ASSOCIATED PRESS via GREAT FALLS [MT] TRIBUNE)

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/viewart/20140318/NEWS01/303180017/Montana-officials-re-work-bison-tolerance-plan>

-- For Yellowstone region's grizzlies, no such thing as a guaranteed lunch (column/commentary)

(JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE [JACKSON, WY])

http://www.jhnewsandguide.com/opinion/columnists/the_new_west_todd_wilkinson/for-griz-no-such-thing-as-a-guaranteed-lunch/article_51e43736-7ff4-5e80-87cd-c897ffafc790.html

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 826 AM MDT FRI MAR 21 2014

Rest Of Today: Partly cloudy early in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Highs 25 to 31.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 2 to 8.

Saturday: Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the morning. Highs 25 to 31.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 4 to 10.

Sunday: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Highs 27 to 33. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Sunday Night: Partly cloudy with chance of snow in the evening... Then mostly cloudy with slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 9 to 15. Chance of snow 40 percent.

Monday: Mostly cloudy in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Isolated snow showers. Highs 29 to 35. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 9 to 15. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

All employees are encouraged to participate in the [Wellness Incentive Program](#) (WIP). Full program details can be found by clicking the link above. You may begin participation at the beginning of any month. Simply complete a certification form and submit it to Stacey Gunther by the fifth day of the following month (i.e. send by April 5th for wellness participation during March). Five names will be drawn each month for an award.

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

Wednesday, March 26, 2014



Congratulations to Cindy Hoe for ten years and to Tom Cunningham for THIRTY FIVE years!!!
Way to go to you both!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of April 1, Tina Holland will be handing over the coordination of parkwide uniforms to the division of Resource Education and Youth Programs. **Clare Cloghessy** will be the new contact and can be reached at x2581. The uniform cache will remain in the MABO office at the garage until other arrangements can be made.

Xanterra's Canyon Lodging Redevelopment Project starts up in earnest this week with mobilization, snow removal, removal of existing cabins (demolition of most, Britton's burning of others), excavation for the foundations of three of the five new buildings, and everything else that comes at the beginning of a \$70M construction project.

Peter Galindo is the NPS representative on this project and has set up an on-site pre-construction meeting next Tuesday for Canyon area and other NPS staff, Xanterra staff, Martel Construction, and others. But if you or anyone on your staff has questions about what is going on, please contact Peter or Mary.

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There will be a **Basic Aviation Safety Training** (B3) April 10 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the fire cache training room for anyone who believes they will be an air crew member on flights this summer. This means you are more than the incidental firefighter or search and rescue person who may get on a helicopter or fixed wing aircraft. If you have already taken this class in the classroom you are required to refresh every 3 years on line now under the new A100 format. Please set up your IAT profile before coming to class at www.IAT.gov You may sign up with Laura Dooley at x2181 or by email.

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The telecommunications department has added a page to the Yellowstone SharePoint site.

The information included in the new page are attachments that will better help those who have questions on using park phones and the park's voice mail system. Additionally, for those who want in depth knowledge of how their phone works, included is the Avaya user manual. At nearly 100 pages in length this manual will provide information never thought possible about the small grey phones.

If you have any questions or suggestions on this page please send an email to: george_herrman@nps.gov

To see the new information go to the Yellowstone SharePoint site.

Click on <Employee Info>

Click on <Yell Telephone Info>"

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Upcoming CPR classes!

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

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

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

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Casting for Recovery®

A Support & Educational Program for Breast Cancer Survivors and a weekend retreat offered at no cost to the participants. For women of all ages and all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery who live in Wyoming. The weekend provides medical information and counseling and promotes physical and emotional healing while learning to fly-fish. Connect with other women, enjoy the outdoors, learn a new sport. July 25-27, 2014 at

Absaroka Ranch, Dubois, WY. Apply on-line at www.castingforrecovery.org. CFR must receive your form by May 16. Participants are selected at random. We will notify all applicants of their status after the application deadline.

There is **ASIST Training** coming up on April 25 and 26. Contact Juanita Bueter for further information at 406-224-2629.

ASIST is (in my opinion) the "golden ticket" in gatekeeper training for suicide intervention. It is an intensive 2 day training filled with step by step instruction on how to intercede when you encounter someone who is in crisis, the correct verbiage to use, and role playing to ensure you are comfortable with the program and how to put it to use. You will have plenty of "take away" materials to help you practice and employ the techniques used. Often times we are the liaison between someone in crisis and actually getting them to mental health help, being armed with the tools to encourage the help seeking behavior that is missing when someone is suicidal is vital to getting that person to help. The window of opportunity is often times small, and us being prepared to help in the correct way is important. I am a survivor of suicide loss (my son in 2006) and having had all the available resources for awareness , prevention, intervention and post-vention accessible to me after getting involved in the suicide prevention following the loss of my son... I can see the value in this program, and how it would have helped our family if we had been armed in 2006. I have used ASIST many times over the past 6 years, and I swear by it... I believe it in so much that I decided to become an ASIST trainer in March of this year. I am so excited that Montana has a willing department willing to offer this training for free, I hope other states pay attention and follow their lead!

Lisa Brattain Indiana/Ohio Area Director American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Wednesday, March 26, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Plows are peeling ice from Firehole Bridge to Old Faithful. Area plows running at Canyon and Lake.

Present Location:

Firehole Bridge

Anticipated Destination:

Old Faithful Area

Snow Conditions:

2' packed hard ice.

Equipment:

The Walters and 1 blower down.

Weather:

Clear, 11 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 24, 2014 – Closed to Madison to Old Faithful

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 804 AM MDT WED MAR 26 2014

Today Breezy. Snow showers early in the morning...then snow with possible rain and thunderstorms likely in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 32 to 38. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 90 percent.

Tonight Snow and slight chance of thunderstorms early in the evening...then snow showers likely late in the evening. Snow likely after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Lows around 18. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Thursday Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow likely and slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning becoming west 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Thursday Night Cloudy. Snow likely in the evening...then chance of snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 6 to 12 inches. Lows around 16. West winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Friday Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Friday Night Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 20 to 26.

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Yellowstone Wellness Incentive program (WIP)

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, March 27, 2014



Bachelors club, Jackson Hole style
(photo by Joe Keel)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of April 1, Tina Holland will be handing over the coordination of parkwide uniforms to the division of Resource Education and Youth Programs. **Clare Cloghessy** will be the new contact and can be reached at x2581. The uniform cache will remain in the MABO office at the garage until other arrangements can be made.

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The information included in the new page are attachments that will better help those who have questions on using park phones and the park's voice mail system. Additionally, for those who want in depth knowledge of how their phone works, included is the Avaya user manual. At nearly 100 pages in length this manual will provide information never thought possible about the small grey phones.

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To see the new information go to the Yellowstone SharePoint site.

Click on <Employee Info>

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Upcoming CPR classes!

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

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

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

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times we are the liaison between someone in crisis and actually getting them to mental health help, being armed with the tools to encourage the help seeking behavior that is missing when someone is suicidal is vital to getting that person to help. The window of opportunity is often times small, and us being prepared to help in the correct way is important. I am a survivor of suicide loss (my son in 2006) and having had all the available resources for awareness , prevention, intervention and post-vention accessible to me after getting involved in the suicide prevention following the loss of my son... I can see the value in this program, and how it would have helped our family if we had been armed in 2006. I have used ASIST many times over the past 6 years, and I swear by it... I believe it in so much that I decided to become an ASIST trainer in March of this year. I am so excited that Montana has a willing department willing to offer this training for free, I hope other states pay attention and follow their lead!

Lisa Brattain Indiana/Ohio Area Director American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Thursday, March 27, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Plows are at Old Faithful Area. Area plows running at Canyon and Lake.

Present Location:

Old Faithful Area

Anticipated Destination:

Old Faithful Area

Snow Conditions:

3' with hard packed ice. 3 - 4" new snow.

Weather:

Clear, 30 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Monday, March 24, 2014 – Closed to Madison to Old Faithful

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

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Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 818 AM MDT THU MAR 27 2014

Today Snow showers likely early in the morning...then snow showers...rain showers and slight chance of

thunderstorms in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Highs 30 to 36. West winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Tonight Cloudy. Snow showers and slight chance of thunderstorms early in the evening...then snow showers likely late in the evening. Chance of snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 7 inches. Lows 14 to 20. West winds around 15 mph in the evening becoming west around 15 mph early in the morning. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Friday Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning... Then chance of snow showers and rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Friday Night Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 21 to 27. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning... Then chance of rain showers and snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 36 to 42. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday Night Chance of snow showers and rain showers in the evening...then snow showers likely after midnight. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 21 to 27. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, March 28, 2014



It's that time of year again...at Lewis Lake. (NPS photo, Eric Burrows)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

As of April 1, Tina Holland will be handing over the coordination of parkwide uniforms to the division of Resource Education and Youth Programs. **Clare Cloghessy** will be the new contact and can be reached at x2581. The uniform cache will remain in the MABO office at the garage until other arrangements can be made.

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

Location: MCC EMS Classroom

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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

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-Lisa Brattain Indiana/Ohio Area Director American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Friday, March 28, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Plows are at Old Faithful Area. Area plows running at Canyon and Lake.

Present Location:
Old Faithful Area

Anticipated Destination:
Old Faithful Area

Snow Conditions:
14” new snow today.

Equipment:
1 blower down.

Weather:
Snowy, 26 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Friday, March 28, 2014 –Madison to Old Faithful at 8 AM open through the weekend to Admin travel. May close on Monday pending on snow conditions.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Mammoth to Norris at 11 AM

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – Norris to Canyon at 11 AM

Monday, March 17, 2014 – Canyon to Lake at 8 AM

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 - Norris to Madison at 8 AM

Thursday, March 20, 2014 – Madison to West at 5 PM

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IN THE NEWS**LINX SUSPENDS PUBLIC BUS SERVICE INSIDE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

Officials of the Greater Yellowstone Regional Transportation Cooperative – bus providers and transit advocates doing business as Linx -- announced today that due to a lack of funding, they will suspend the Co-op’s seasonal public bus operations both inside Yellowstone National Park and between certain gateway communities for 2014.

For the past three summers several Co-op providers jointly operated a pilot demonstration called “Linx Bus in Yellowstone” with the support of park concessioners, local businesses, chambers of commerce, and state agencies. In 2013 the Linx providers added a “Yellowstone Gateways Connections” service between Jackson,

Riverton, Cody, Gardiner and West Yellowstone thanks to an FTA Intercity Bus grant awarded by the State of Wyoming.

The 3-year pilot showed that an interconnected bus system could operate successfully inside the park despite wildlife jams, auto accidents, wildfire closures and weather extremes. However, despite increasing numbers of riders and marketing sponsors, total revenues failed to cover operating costs. When WYDOT chose not to renew the Intercity Bus grant for 2014, Co-op officials agreed that Linx pilot operations should be suspended both inside the park and between the Wyoming gateway towns.

During this respite, the Linx board of directors is planning a strategic re-orientation of the Co-op's services for its member providers. According to President Arthur Kull, "we will refocus on integrating and marketing the fixed-route services that our members already operate in this region."

Beyond such planning and coordination, Linx expects to upgrade its online capacity for trip planning and system-wide ticket purchases; maintain its toll-free line for responding to public transportation requests; and expand its range of member marketing services.

-- Winter tourist visits to Yellowstone, Grand Teton compare to last winter

(CASPER [WY] STAR-TRIBUNE)

http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/winter-tourist-visits-to-yellowstone-grand-teton-compare-to-winter/article_d72b8f42-5997-5f41-abef-9b4619452cbe.html

-- Success of winter season varies by park gate counts (Yellowstone, Grand Teton)

(YELLOWSTONE GATE Wyoming national parks-related news online [CODY, WY])

<http://www.yellowstonegate.com/2014/03/success-of-winter-season-varies-by-park-gate-counts/>

-- Gardiner Gateway project advances at Yellowstone's north entrance

(LIVINGSTON [MT] ENTERPRISE)

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/gardiner-gateway-project-advances>

-- Ensuring Yellowstone grizzlies are secure – for now and the future (commentary)

(NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL's "SWITCHBOARD" news blog [WASHINGTON, DC])

http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/sfallon/ensuring_yellowstone_grizzly_b.html

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 646 AM MDT FRI MAR 28 2014

Today: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow showers until late afternoon...then chance of snow showers and rain showers early in the afternoon. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Lows 22 to 28. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Saturday: Breezy...cloudy. Chance of snow showers in the morning... Then snow and rain likely in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 36 to 42. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

Saturday Night: Breezy. Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Lows 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Sunday: Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 4 to 5 inches. Highs 31 to 37. Chance of snow 70 percent.

Sunday Night: Colder. Snow likely. Moderate snow accumulations. Lows 15 to 21. Chance of snow 60 percent.

Monday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 30 to 36.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, March 31, 2014

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Memorial Service** for Debi Roberts will be held at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday at the Gardiner School.

A reception will be held immediately afterwards at the Gardiner Community Center. Please bring a pot-luck dish to share.

A memorial fund has been set up at the First Interstate Bank in Gardiner. Donations will be sent to a charity that her children will choose in memory of their mother.

Jamey, Nathan, and Alex are appreciative of the NPS family's help and concern for their family during this tragedy.

As of April 1, Tina Holland will be handing over the coordination of parkwide uniforms to the division of Resource Education and Youth Programs. **Clare Cloghessy** will be the new contact and can be reached at x2581. The uniform cache will remain in the MABO office at the garage until other arrangements can be made.

There will be a **Basic Aviation Safety Training** (B3) April 10 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the fire cache training room for anyone who believes they will be an air crew member on flights this summer. This means you are more than the incidental firefighter or search and rescue person who may get on a helicopter or fixed wing aircraft. If you have already taken this class in the classroom you are required to refresh every 3 years on line now under the new A100 format. Please set up your IAT profile before coming to class at www.IAT.gov. **Register for the class online through the www.iat.gov website after you set-up your profile. Thank you.**

The telecommunications department has added a page to the Yellowstone SharePoint site.

The information included in the new page are attachments that will better help those who have questions on using park phones and the park's voice mail system. Additionally, for those who want in depth knowledge of how their phone works included is the Avaya user manual. At nearly 100 pages in length this manual will provide information never thought possible about the small grey phones.

If you have any questions or suggestions on this page please send an email to: george_herrman@nps.gov

To see the new information go to the Yellowstone SharePoint site.

Click on <Employee Info>

Click on <Yell Telephone Info>

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

Date/Time: TOMORROW - 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

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

Casting for Recovery®

A Support & Educational Program for Breast Cancer Survivors and a weekend retreat offered at no cost to the participants. For women of all ages and all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery who live in Wyoming. The weekend provides medical information and counseling and promotes physical and emotional healing while learning to fly-fish. Connect with other women, enjoy the outdoors, and learn a new sport. July 25-27, 2014 at Absaroka Ranch, Dubois, WY. Apply on-line at www.castingforrecovery.org. CFR must receive your form by May 16. Participants are selected at random. We will notify all applicants of their status after the application deadline.

SPRING OPENING UPDATE

Status as of Monday, March 31, 2014

REMEMBER TO THINK – “SAFETY FIRST”

Plows: Area plows running at Canyon, Lake and Old Faithful. Plows cleaning up all admin roads.

Present Location: Old Faithful Area

Anticipated Destination: Plowing all admin roads today

Snow Conditions: 10” new snow over weekend.

Equipment: 1 blower down.

Weather: Overcast, 20 degrees.

Communication Center will announce when official “Administrative Travel” is allowed.

CLOSED TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Madison to Old Faithful until 4:30 PM today

OPEN TO ADMINISTRATIVE TRAVEL:

Mammoth to Norris, Norris to Canyon, Canyon to Lake, Norris to Madison, Madison to West

Be advised that there will be heavy equipment including plows on all Administrative roadways. Advise the Snow Crew by radio if you are in the area. Remember no Administrative traffic on roads being plowed without prior notification.

IN THE NEWS**Yellowstone National Park rattled by largest earthquake in 34 years**

BY LAURA ZUCKERMAN

Sun Mar 30, 2014 8:49pm EDT

(Reuters) - Yellowstone National Park, which sits atop one of the world's largest super-volcanoes, was struck on Sunday by a magnitude 4.8 earthquake, the biggest recorded there since February 1980, but no damage or injuries were immediately reported.

The tremor, a relatively light event by seismic standards, struck the northwest corner of the park and capped a flurry of smaller quakes at Yellowstone since Thursday, geologists at the University of Utah Seismograph Stations said in a statement.

The latest earthquake struck at 6:34 a.m. near the Norris Geyser Basin and was felt about 23 miles away in two small Montana towns adjacent to year-around entrances to the park - Gardiner and West Yellowstone.

The national park spans 3,472 square miles (8,992 square km) of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, and draws about 3 million visitors each year to its iconic geysers and wildlife attractions, including bison.

A U.S. Geological Survey team planned to tour the Norris Geyser Basin on Sunday to determine if the quake altered any of Yellowstone's geothermal features, such as geysers, mud pots and hot springs.

Several people reported having felt shaking they compared to the rumble of a tractor-trailer truck driving by, and a few items fell off the shelves at a local grocery store, a West Yellowstone police dispatcher said.

About 1,000 to 3,000 earthquakes strike Yellowstone each year, according to the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory, a research partnership of the park, the University of Utah and the U.S. Geological Survey.

The ancient super-volcano, or caldera, that lies beneath the surface of the park was discovered by scientists in recent years to be 2.5 times larger than previously thought, measured at 30 miles wide, according to the park.

Sunday's quake occurred near the center of an area of ground uplift that geologists have been tracking for several months, University of Utah seismologists said. Elevated seismic activity was also found in the area during a previous period of uplift from 1996 to 2003.

The recent spike in earthquake activity at Yellowstone is linked to the uplift, which in turn is caused by the upward movement of molten rock beneath the Earth's crust, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Fortunately, there was no indication that the recent seismic activity signaled an impending eruption of the Yellowstone Caldera, scientists said.

Researchers with the observatory have said in the past that catastrophic eruptions by the super-volcano are unlikely for tens of thousands of years, though less extreme lava releases could occur within thousands of years.

The super-volcano's most cataclysmic eruption occurred 2 million years ago, covering half of North America with ash and killing prehistoric animals as far as away as modern-day Nebraska, according to the Yellowstone Volcano Observatory.

Heat from a vast chamber of molten rock beneath the caldera fuels the park's famous geothermal features, including Old Faithful Geyser, Yellowstone scientists say.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 31 Mar 6:56 am MDT

Today: Mostly cloudy with chance of snow in the morning...then partly cloudy with scattered snow showers and isolated rain showers in the afternoon. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Tonight: Partly cloudy until early morning then clearing. Lows 9 to 15.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Slight chance of snow showers in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 11 to 17. Chance of snow 20 percent.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the morning... Then chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. Chance of snow 40 percent.

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