

# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, February 2, 2015

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

With the unseasonably warm weather causing snow to melt into dens we can expect some bears to emerge earlier than normal. Although we have not yet observed any bears emerging from dens inside of YNP, **black bear activity has been reported in Montana and grizzly bear activity in Wyoming** so it is not too early for field crews to start carrying bear spray and to begin taking the standard precautions for working safely in bear country.

--- Dan Mahony and Janet Lewis.



**MCC Chili cook off and sledding party!** Tuesday, Feb. 17 @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee (donations accepted for tasters) All \$ goes back to MCC. BIG prizes for chili contest winners! Please bring chill fixings to share. The MCC will provide hot cocoa and s'mores. Watch our website for updates! <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com> THINK SNOW!



**Access Control will begin on the YCR building starting TODAY.** If you currently have access to the Admin building, with your Yellowstone National Park issued ID card or PIN, you will have access to the YCR building with those same credentials. If you need access to YCR and don't currently have a PIN or card contact Jennifer Carpenter for help obtaining them. So when there is a reader next to a door, if the LED is green the door is unlocked – no need to enter PIN or use ID your park card. If the LED is red the door is locked and you'll need to use a PIN or card to get in.

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### Winter Survival Stories: A Wildlife Seminar

Thursday, February 5th 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room beside the Recreation Hall

Could you use your head as a snowplow or stay warm when temperatures plummet below 0°F? Discover some of the amazing adaptations wildlife possess to cope with the severity of winter in Yellowstone.

Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.



Former PAO employee Dan Hottle and Amanda welcomed their new daughter, Zia Raine Hottle, on Tuesday, January 20th. According to Dan, she is 6 lbs. 12 oz., 21 3/4 inches of perfection!

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## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 653 AM MST MON FEB 2 2015

The National Weather Service in Riverton has issued a **Winter Weather Advisory** for Yellowstone Park...which is in effect from 5 pm this afternoon to 8 am MST Wednesday.

Snowfall will increase in intensity by early this evening... becoming heavy at times tonight and Tuesday morning. There will be a respite from the snowfall intensity Tuesday afternoon before even heavier snowfall occurs Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

Snow accumulations: ranging from a foot of snow in the southwest portion of the park to 2 to 4 inches in Mammoth by Wednesday morning.

**Today:** Snow likely late in the morning. Chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 27 to 33. Chance of snow 80 percent.

**Tonight:** Breezy...snow. Snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Lows 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of snow 80 percent.

**Tuesday:** Snow. Snow accumulation around 1 inch. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

**Tuesday Night:** Snow. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 90 percent.

**Wednesday:** Cloudy. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 12 inches. Highs 27 to 33. Chance of snow 70 percent.

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Tuesday, February 3, 2015



Lunchtime! (photo by Les Brunton)

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## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 924 AM MST TUE FEB 3 2015

**Today:** Snow likely in the late morning and early afternoon...then snow late in the afternoon. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph with gusts to around 30 mph. Chance of snow 90 percent.

**Tonight:** Snow. Snow accumulation of 4 to 7 inches. Total snow accumulation 5 to 11 inches. Lows 11 to 17. West winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow near 100 percent.

**Wednesday:** Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows 15 to 21.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning... Then isolated snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 29 to 35. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 30 percent.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening... Then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 20 to 26. Chance of snow 30 percent.

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Wednesday, February 4, 2015



Tower R.S. on the other side of Lost Creek Sunday morning at sunrise.  
(photo by Karin Schwartz)

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**TOMORROW** 6:00 pm in the Mammoth Conference Room beside the Recreation Hall

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Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.

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## Upcoming CPR classes!

**Health Care Provider CPR** is the class for FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic.

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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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Can you recognize the signs of a heart attack? How about if someone is having trouble breathing? We talk about these signs, we train for these events (in fact see that training above!!) all the time. **However, you are more likely to encounter someone (friend, coworker, family member) in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack.** Would you know how to give them first aid? How to get them help? **Everyone** is encouraged to take the 8 hour Mental Health First Aid training next **Friday, February 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** in the Yellowstone Association classroom. This free course (with

lunch provided by the Tumbleweed) will teach you a 5 step action plan to offer initial support to someone and help you connect them with the appropriate care. So many times, **the best first aid is you!** Take the course, save a life, and strengthen our community!

## WEATHER

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 808 AM MST WED FEB 4 2015

**Today:** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow until early morning...then slight chance of snow early in the morning. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

**Thursday:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the evening. Lows 20 to 26. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Friday:** Breezy. Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 23 to 29.

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Thursday, February 5, 2015



Kaelyn Johnson gets her 30 year service award and Steve Foster (both from the Communication Center) gets his 5 year service award. Congratulations!

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Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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lunch provided by the Tumbleweed) will teach you a 5 step action plan to offer initial support to someone and help you connect them with the appropriate care. So many times, **the best first aid is you!** Take the course, save a life, and strengthen our community!

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## Museum Offers Programs in Gardiner and Livingston

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum announces programs it is offering this winter/spring. Please see the below schedule for programs held at Gardiner School as well as our Winter Speaker Series held at the Livingston-Park County Public Library.

### Gardiner School

**Monday, February 16:** “On Growing Up Rural: Local Education for Living in the World”  
Casey Olsen, Columbus High School Teacher

**Monday, March 30:** “Dispelling Modern Stereotypes”  
Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist

**Wednesday, April 15:** “The Apsaalooke (Crow) in Yellowstone and the Gardiner Area”  
Dr. Shane Doyle, MSU Native American Studies professor

**All programs are held in the Gardiner School multi-purpose room at 7:00 PM. They are free and open to the public.**

### Livingston

**Thursday, February 19:** “World War II: Stories from Park County”  
Susan Kraft, retired museum curator, Yellowstone National Park

**Thursday, March 19:** “Pathways to the Past: Twelve Thousand Years of Prehistory and History in Yellowstone National Park”  
Dr. Staffan Peterson, Yellowstone Park Archaeologist

**Thursday, March 26:** “Dogs of Livingston: An Historic Look”  
Paul Shea, Yellowstone Gateway Museum Director

**Thursday, April 16:** “Gateway to Yellowstone: The Raucous Town of Cinnabar on the Montana Frontier”  
Lee H. Whittlesey, Yellowstone Park Historian

**All programs are held at the Livingston-Park County Public Library at 7:00 PM. They are free and open to the public**

Visit the museum’s website, [www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org](http://www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org) or call 406-222-4184, for more information. The Yellowstone Gateway Museum is located at 118 W. Chinook, Livingston, MT.

## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 807 AM MST THU FEB 5 2015

**Today:** Breezy. Patchy fog late in the morning. Mostly cloudy. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy until early morning then becoming partly cloudy. Lows 19 to 25. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Friday:** Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Friday Night:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 23 to 29. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Saturday:** Breezy. Snow likely in the morning...then snow likely and chance of rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

**Saturday Night:** Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 21 to 27.

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Friday, February 6, 2015



The Roosevelt Arch at sunrise this morning.  
(photo by Lori Wilkinson)

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**RECENT NEWS RELEASES****Yellowstone Making Changes To Backcountry Permit Fees**

Yellowstone will implement an overnight backcountry permit fee starting May 1. The money raised from the new fees will help defray the costs of running the park's backcountry program.

Anyone obtaining a permit to stay overnight in the backcountry between Memorial Day and September 10 will have to pay a per-person, per night permit fee for all individuals 9 years of age or older.

Backpackers and boaters will pay \$3.00 per-person, per night, with groups of 5 or more paying a total of \$15 per night. Stock users will be charged \$5.00 per-person, per night.

Visitors may purchase an Annual Backcountry Pass for \$25, which covers the per-person, per-night backcountry fees for the individual pass holder for the calendar year in which the pass is purchased.

Yellowstone has accepted advanced backcountry reservations since 1996. The advance reservation fee remains \$25 for trips reserved more than two nights in advance.

Reservations are currently being accepted for backcountry trips for 2015. Applications submitted prior to April 1 are processed in random order by lottery. Reservations received after April 1 are processed in the order in which they are received.

The park's Backcountry Trip Planner and reservation applications are available online at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/backcountrytripplanner.htm>.

Revenues from the advanced reservation and per-night fees are expected to cover just over 40-percent of the costs associated with operating the park's nine backcountry offices. This reduced dependence upon the park's base operating funds will allow Yellowstone to reallocate money to support other important park operations.

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February 4, 2015

News Release from the Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group  
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (contact: Karen Loveless, 406/333-4211)  
National Park Service (contact: Doug Smith, 307/344-2242)

**2014-2015 Winter Count of Northern Yellowstone Elk**

The Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group conducted its annual winter survey of the northern Yellowstone elk population on January 20, 2015. The survey, using three airplanes, was conducted by staff from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the National Park Service. Staff counted 4,844 elk, including 1130 elk (23%) inside Yellowstone National Park and 3,714 elk (77%) north of the park. Survey conditions were favorable across the region.

The 2015 count was 24% higher than the 3,915 elk counted in 2013 and was the highest since 6,037 elk were counted in 2010. Survey conditions in 2014 were poor and resulted in an inaccurate count.

The Working Group will continue to monitor trends of the northern Yellowstone elk population and evaluate the relative contribution of various components of mortality, including predation, environmental factors, and hunting. The Working Group was formed in 1974 to cooperatively preserve and protect the long-term integrity of the

northern Yellowstone winter range for wildlife species by increasing our scientific knowledge of the species and their habitats, promoting prudent land management activities, and encouraging an interagency approach to answering questions and solving problems. The Working Group is comprised of resource managers and biologists from the Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks, National Park Service (Yellowstone National Park), U.S. Forest Service (Custer Gallatin National Forest), and U.S. Geological Survey-Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, Bozeman.

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Yellowstone elk count is up, but ...**

Published: Thu, 02/05/2015 - 9:00pm

By Livingston Enterprise Staff

<http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/yellowstone-elk-count>

An annual survey counted about 25 percent more elk in the Northern Yellowstone Elk Herd population since the last accurate survey in 2013, but researchers say that doesn't necessarily mean there are actually more elk in the area.

Staff from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks as well as the National Park Service conducted the Jan. 20 survey with three airplanes and counted 4,844 elk, up from 3,915 in 2013.

The 2014 survey wasn't accurate due to poor conditions, according to a news release from the Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group.

Doug Smith, biologist for the National Park Service, said the increase said more about the accuracy of this year's survey than actual increases in the population.

"I think having a larger count is good news," Smith said Thursday morning. "Everyone is happy about that, but it may just be we did better this time."

According to Smith, this year's count took place earlier in the winter and on a day with complete snow coverage.

These factors helped researchers get a more accurate tally of elk populations and contributed to a disparity from the numbers in past years.

Although he can't say for certain the elk population has increased, Smith said it has been a good year for elk calf recruitment and the population might have grown.

Smith said the elk population peaked in the mid-1990s, but it wasn't a healthy population and it was easy for predators to pick off weak animals. Predators including bears, mountain lions and wolves that were introduced from 1995 to 1997 helped reduce the population to healthier levels.

"We have the leanest, meanest elk herd in the whole region because our elk are tested by predators, and that makes elk tough," he said.

According to Smith, wolf populations reached around 90 animals in 2007 but declined by two-thirds in 2008 due to disease and smaller elk herds with more resources, making them harder to kill. Since that time, wolf numbers hover around 35 to 40.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 721 AM MST FRI FEB 6 2015

**Today:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Highs 36 to 42. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of snow in the evening...then chance of snow after midnight. Lows 24 to 30. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 50 percent.

**Saturday:** Breezy...cloudy. Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow and rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 2 to 4 inches. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

**Saturday Night:** Breezy. Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 21 to 27. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Sunday:** Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. Lows 20 to 26.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, February 9, 2015



Due to a blocked culvert pipe and warm weather (and rain!) causing massive snow melt, the Mammoth Cabins became lakeshore property this weekend. Called out to assist Xanterra Maintenance and their pumps, the Mammoth Fire Company responded with pumps and hose to pump the water 450 feet away from the cabins to another storm drain.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The copy center will be closed this Friday Feb. 13.** The mailroom will be open for business. If you need help with your mail, please contact someone at the supply center.

Thanks, Deb:)

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### **Upcoming CPR classes!**

**Health Care Provider CPR** is the class for FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic.

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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](#)



Can you recognize the signs of a heart attack? How about if someone is having trouble breathing? We talk about these signs, we train for these events (in fact see that training above!!) all the time. **However, you are more likely to encounter someone (friend, coworker, family member) in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack.** Would you know how to give them first aid? How to get them help? **Everyone** is encouraged to take the 8 hour Mental Health First Aid training next **Friday, February 13 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.** in the Yellowstone Association classroom. This free course (with lunch provided by the Tumbleweed) will teach you a 5 step action plan to offer initial support to someone and help you connect them with the appropriate care. So many times, **the best first aid is you!** Take the course, save a life, and strengthen our community!

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## EMPLOYEE RECREATION – Upcoming Events

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Could you use your head as a snowplow or stay warm when temperatures plummet below 0°F? Discover some of the amazing adaptations wildlife possess to cope with the severity of winter in Yellowstone.

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**All programs are held in the Gardiner School multi-purpose room at 7:00 PM. They are free and open to the public.**

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 652 AM MST MON FEB 9 2015

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**Tonight:** Breezy. Snow likely until early morning...then chance of snow early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 2 to 9 inches. Lows 20 to 26. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Tuesday:** Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 30 to 36. Southwest winds around 15 mph until late afternoon.

**Tuesday Night:** Cloudy with chance of snow in the evening...then partly cloudy with slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 15 to 21. Chance of snow 50 percent.

**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 31 to 37.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 12 to 18.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 10, 2015



I wonder if there was a pot of gold in the Mammoth Campground yesterday!

OH, and those great pictures of the Mammoth Cabin lake front property yesterday came from Jerry Bartlett (he claims I never give him photo credit!) ☺

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

WASO has sent out a call to all parks to gather information and an image of ONE museum object that the park feels best represents it. This information will then be placed in a Google Cultural Institute virtual exhibit. It will be a cultural exhibit, so the object cannot be a natural history specimen.

We wanted park employees to weigh in on this so it wasn't just the curatorial staff making the decision. We came up with five objects that are fairly iconic and/or representative of Yellowstone, and would not be found elsewhere. I have attached a document with information on each object; the objects are not listed in any particular order, and much of the information is also found on the SharePoint survey site.

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The voting deadline is Sunday, February 15, at 11:59 PM. This will allow us time to prepare information as well as better photographs of the chosen object for submittal to WASO.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

I will let everyone know which object is chosen as a result of this survey. Thanks so much for your participation!

*Colleen E. Curry*  
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**Upcoming CPR classes!**

**Health Care Provider CPR** is the class for FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic.

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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****Cody tour guide hosted SI's swimsuit models, photo team**

Posted: Monday, February 9, 2015 3:55 pm | *Updated: 4:02 pm, Mon Feb 9, 2015.*

team By Jeanette Johnson Staff writer

Take equal parts glitz and glamour. Mix them together with early wake-up calls. Stir in cold temperatures and stoicism.

Then start taking pictures of women in bikinis.

Those are some of the ingredients for a Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition that Kim Capron experienced last summer in Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks.

It was a fortuitous change of pace when the Cody woman received a call from Southwest Adventure Tours owner Jason Murray.

Murray, based in Cedar City, Utah, had the contract from Sports Illustrated to provide transportation on three photo shoots to national parks, which the magazine features this year.

“He called and asked me if I wanted to drive,” she said. “I said, ‘I’ll be there tomorrow.’”

More of a National Geographic-type gal, she didn’t realize the significance of SI until she joined the tour.

“I wasn’t too informed about what the swimsuit edition is,” she said. “I had no clue. But it’s a big deal.”

The fact that Sports Illustrated is showcasing America’s national parks makes the 2015 issue special, she said. It hits newsstands this week.

Most of the specific photos to be used remain secret until the magazine is published, but it’s known to include scenes of Old Faithful, Artists Point, Grand Prismatic Spring and the Grand Tetons in the background.

Capron, 56, embarked on what she thought would be a glamorous experience.

“And yet it’s not,” she said. “It’s physically demanding.”

It turned out to be a totally different type of tour than she's ever experienced. She was the driver and guide for 10 passengers, a combo work-and-play vacation.

Behind the wheel of one of the three 15-passenger vans, she shuffled her crew from shoot to shoot on two trips.

The first trip in June, 10 days in Grand Teton and Yellowstone, was familiar territory for the local tour guide.

"The Old Faithful shoot was one of the most challenging shoots we did because there were so many people at that location to see Old Faithful erupt," Capron said. "Instead, they were all watching and shooting us with their phones."

Model Jessica Gomes made several costume changes there. These were done using an opaque tube that was pulled up to shield her from prying eyes.

The blinding klieg lights of stardom dimmed somewhat after Capron was around 44 other people: models, management team, support staff and a catering van and trailer.

The second 10-day excursion took her to the Pacific Northwest, Monterey and Napa Valley, Calif.

Once at the sites, they hiked 3-10 miles each day.

"It seems like it would be a glamorous job but it's actually physically demanding," she said.

They'd hit the road at 3 a.m. to arrive at 5 a.m. and stay until 10 p.m. to take advantage of sunrises and sunsets, the optimum times for photography.

"The models were up before the rest of us," she said.

Every strand of hair in place, make-up perfectly applied, all the swimsuits ready to don. So much for the myth of modeling. The public sees the beauty, not the beastly work that goes on behind the scenes.

"They are the hardest working women I have ever met," Capron said. "I was impressed with them."

The photographers are the ones who really are in charge. Shots were done over and over. The models were required to look beautiful.

"If it took four hours to get the shot, they stayed where he wanted them to," she said.

Forget about the temperatures. The shoot goes on even when it's 32 degrees in the Tetons.

"And the models are in their bathing suits," she said.

The beauties have to stay in one position, look pretty and smile no matter what the temperatures, she said.

When the photographer took a break from shooting at a beach, the model would come out of the water, wrap herself in warm robes, put on hand warmers and try to bring up her body temperature. All without grumbling.

“It was their job and they are professionals,” she said.

The convoy included a catering van and trailer where all the meals were prepared. The models ate what the rest of the entourage dined on.

“They were working hard and they were hungry,” she said. “I never saw them eat a bite of lettuce.”

Capron worked with eight of the models featured in the issue. She met Chanel, a prominent model in the U.S.

Of course, men know who she’s talking about, Capron said. And regular SI readers will recognize Nina.

A plus-size model – a first for this edition which has garnered wide press attention – may be featured in magazine photos from Teton park.

“I would call them normal like the rest of us,” she said. “Some of the models would be considered thin, but the majority were normal, beautiful, curvy, gorgeous women.”

Through her work Capron is in a position to travel as much and for as long as possible without disrupting anyone else’s life.

“It’s the most amazing, rewarding job I could have imagined,” she said. “It was much more than I thought it would be.”

She has been managing tours since March 2014. She was in a position where she needed to find a new way to make a living. She was also at an age to decide what she enjoys doing.

“I set out on a mission to choose a job I like instead of a job I had to go to,” she said with a laugh.

Capron had worked in travel tourism for many years, following in the footsteps of her parents. She became a certified international tour manager, completing an intensive 10-day course in Denver.

“I’m the tour manager with the microphone,” she says.

Completion of the course gave her certification and an understanding of the tourism manager industry.

Capron felt at home telling the SI crew about local history and filling them in about the area, working in the backyard with which she’s familiar as a resident. There was one respite in Yellowstone where they spent an evening.

“We all drank wine and enjoyed Lake Hotel. That was the only down day I remember,” she said.

It also was a chance for her to do her usual tour. They enjoyed seeing a sow grizzly and her cub, and a wolf.

“I had people screaming in the van,” she said. “Who knew that was going to happen?”

Although SI shot for a swimsuit edition at the UXU Ranch on the North Fork about 10 years ago, the likelihood of her doing another SI tour is slim. Most of the editions are photographed around the world.

While she enjoyed “being everyone’s grandma,” she knows it was a one-shot deal.

## **WEATHER**

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

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**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy. Highs 32 to 38.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 11 to 17.

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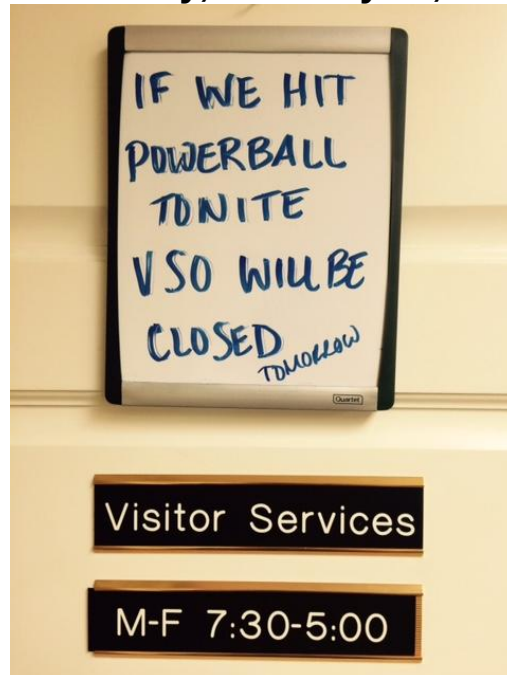
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Good luck, VSO staff!

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Dr. Shane Doyle, MSU Native American Studies professor

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**Thursday, February 19:** “World War II: Stories from Park County”  
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Visit the museum’s website, [www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org](http://www.yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org) or call 406-222-4184, for more information. The Yellowstone Gateway Museum is located at 118 W. Chinook, Livingston, MT.

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## **Upcoming CPR classes!**

**Health Care Provider CPR** is the class for FR, EMT, Park Medic, and Paramedic.

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Location: Mammoth EMS classroom

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](#)

## **RECENT NEWS RELEASES**

### **Bears Starting To Emerge From Dens In Yellowstone**

Blame the relatively mild winter weather for the early emergence of bears in the Greater Yellowstone area.

The first confirmed report of grizzly bear activity in Yellowstone occurred on February 9. A grizzly bear was observed late in the afternoon, scavenging on a bison carcass in the central portion of the park.

With bears emerging from hibernation hikers, skiers, and snowshoers are advised to stay in groups of three or more, make noise on the trail and carry bear spray. The same advice goes for those taking guided snowmobile trips in Yellowstone.

Bears begin looking for food soon after they emerge from their dens. They are attracted to elk and bison that have died during the winter. Carcasses are an important enough food source that bears will sometimes react aggressively when surprised while feeding on them.

Updated bear safety information is available on the Yellowstone bear safety Web page at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/bearsafety.htm> and in the park newspaper distributed at all park entrances.

Yellowstone also implements seasonal bear management areas closures to reduce encounters between bears and humans in areas where elk and bison carcasses are in high density. A listing of these closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/bearclosures.htm>.

Yellowstone regulations require visitors to stay 100 yards from black and grizzly bears at all times. The best defense is to stay a safe distance from bears and use binoculars, a spotting scope or telephoto lens to get a closer look. All visitors traveling in the park away from developed areas should stay in groups of three or more, make noise on the trail, keep an eye out for bears and carry bear spray. Bear spray has proven to be a good last line of defense, if kept handy and used according to directions when a bear is approaching within 30 to 60 feet.

While firearms are allowed in the park, the discharge of a firearm is a violation of park regulations. The park's law enforcement rangers who carry firearms on duty rely on bear spray, rather than their weapons, as the most effective means to deal with a bear encounter.

Visitors are also reminded to keep food, garbage, barbecue grills and other attractants stored in hard-sided vehicles or bear-proof food storage boxes. This helps keep bears from becoming conditioned to human foods, and helps keep park visitors and their property safe.

Bear sightings should be reported to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible.

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Protesters decry killing of wolves and bison in Montana**

1 hour ago • Helena Independent Record

HELENA — Calling on the state and federal government to allow free-ranging bison to reoccupy traditional ranges and objecting to the killing of bison and wolves, protesters rallied on the steps of the Capitol in Helena Tuesday.

Led by James St. Goddard, spiritual leader of the Blackfeet Tribe, the roughly 50 who had assembled held signs and spoke out against the government-sponsored killing of animals deemed sacred to native people.

St. Goddard gained national headlines last year when he attempted to deliver a buffalo heart to Gov. Steve Bullock in protest of spring bison hunts. Bullock was not at the Capitol at the time and St. Goddard was prohibited from bringing the heart into the governor's office.

"I guarantee anybody who stands in the Indian way anymore -- that goes for these legislators, Obama, my good friend Mr. Bullock -- Creator's going to deal with you," he said. "He's going to deal with these people killing these buffalo for no reason; killing these wolves for no reason."

Dancers performed as drums and singing echoed against the Capitol stone like an amphitheater. St. Goddard and others continued to express their frustrations, calling the killings an affront to native rights, specifically the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 that he said guaranteed aboriginal hunting and fishing across much of the state. Signs read "Buffalo are not Livestock" and "Repeal MCA81-2-120," the law controlling Montana Department of Livestock bison management.

Buffalo are the meaning of life for many tribes, with traditions passed down for thousands of years, said Jay Dusty Bull, who then drummed and sang before the rally.

"Less than 100 years ago, legislation was passed at the federal level as well as here to not slaughter animals, animals that we as native people depended on hundreds of years ago," he said. "And with annihilation they drove those animals away from us, put us on reservations."

George Horse Capture Jr. called on people to come together to follow what Creator says to do, namely allowing bison to reclaim traditional range. Living in fear of nature denies that bison belong on the land, he said. Bison on Montana's Indian reservations will provide the animals needed to see reoccupation realized, he said.

"These buffalo are coming back, they're the seeds for what's known as when things are set right," Horse Capture Jr. said.

St. Goddard called on Bullock to veto every anti-animal and native people's bill that comes before him, although he did not name any specific legislation.

"There's so much power here, it's unbelievable," he told the crowd. "We're going to be unstoppable, and I ask all the legislators and all the people that want to join us to be unstoppable, and to love."

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/protesters-decry-killing-of-wolves-and-bison-in-montana/article\\_4228f369-4152-58a1-a419-11b121d2accb.html#ixzz3RS9rCzIV](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/protesters-decry-killing-of-wolves-and-bison-in-montana/article_4228f369-4152-58a1-a419-11b121d2accb.html#ixzz3RS9rCzIV)

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Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 822 AM MST WED FEB 11 2015

**Today** Partly cloudy then becoming mostly sunny early in the afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 34 to 40.

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**Thursday Night** Partly cloudy. Lows 14 to 20.

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### **CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARK'S SOCIAL MEDIA!**

The Social Media Team invites you to contribute photos and ideas to share with Yellowstone's followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and flickr! The park posts photos and information on current conditions, noteworthy sightings, park activities, timely messages, and photos and stories of staff doing their jobs. Any photos sent should be in the public domain, not copyrighted. Please email them to [yell\\_socialmedia@nps.gov](mailto:yell_socialmedia@nps.gov). Thank you!

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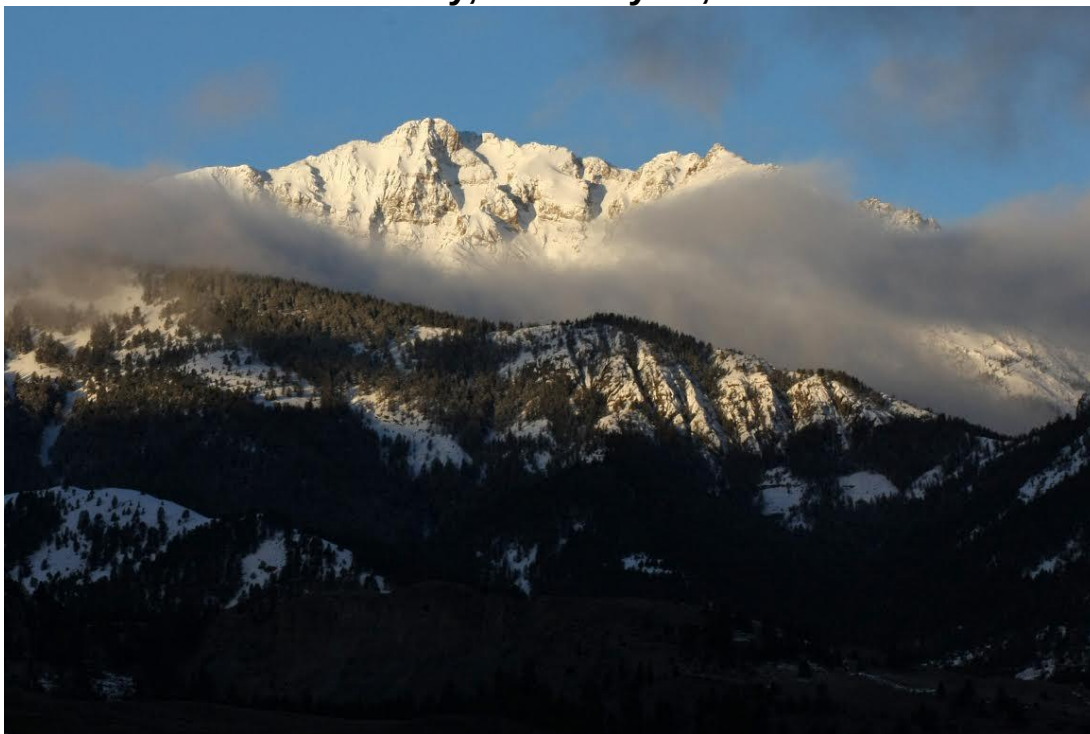
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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, February 12, 2015



Electric Peak yesterday morning (Lori Wilkinson)

And in case you were wondering...A VSO update...



Better luck next time!

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The voting deadline is Sunday, February 15, at 11:59 PM. This will allow us time to prepare information as well as better photographs of the chosen object for submittal to WASO.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

I will let everyone know which object is chosen as a result of this survey. Thanks so much for your participation!

*Colleen E. Curry*  
*Supervisory Museum Curator*

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- April 18 & 19: National Park Week's opening weekend
- August 25: National Park Service's 99th birthday
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The road from the North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through Mammoth Hot Springs on to Cooke City, Montana, outside the park's Northeast Entrance, is open to wheeled vehicle travel all year. Access to the interior of Yellowstone and iconic locations like Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is restricted to guided snowmobile and snowcoach trips from the North, West, South, and East entrances during the winter months.

At Old Faithful, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins and the dining room, the Geyser Grill, the Bear Den Gift Shop and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center are all open for the winter season. At Mammoth Hot Springs, the hotel, dining room and gift shop are open for the winter season. The Yellowstone General Store, medical clinic, campground, post office, and the Visitor Center are open all year. Fuel is available from 24-hour gasoline pumps all year at both Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower Junction.

A seven-day pass to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks is normally \$25 for a private, non-commercial vehicle. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>.

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- September 26: National Public Lands Day
- November 11: Veterans Day

The road from the North Entrance at Gardiner, Montana, through Mammoth Hot Springs on to Cooke City, Montana, outside the park's Northeast Entrance, is open to wheeled vehicle travel all year. Access to the interior of Yellowstone and iconic locations like Old Faithful and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is restricted to guided snowmobile and snowcoach trips from the North, West, South, and East entrances during the winter months.

At Old Faithful, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins and the dining room, the Geyser Grill, the Bear Den Gift Shop and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center are all open for the winter season. At Mammoth Hot Springs, the hotel, dining room and gift shop are open for the winter season. The Yellowstone General Store, medical clinic, campground, post office, and the Visitor Center are open all year. Fuel is available from 24-hour gasoline pumps all year at both Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower Junction.

A seven-day pass to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks is normally \$25 for a private, non-commercial vehicle. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/feefreeparks.htm> and <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm>.

## **IN THE NEWS**

### **Early start on Wapiti highway spares tourism**

Posted: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:30 pm | Updated: 9:36 am, Thu Feb 12, 2015.

By JANICE DOWNEY Managing editor | Cody Enterprise

Road work has started again on the highway through Wapiti Valley, with a deadline of June 15 for major aspects of the project.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation plans to complete the most disruptive work in late winter and spring – well before the height of tourist season in July and August.

“We have a good contractor on board,” WYDOT spokesman Cody Beers said. “The contractor will hustle when the weather’s like (Monday) and slow down when it’s not.”

“The idea is to get it done so there’s free-flowing traffic into Yellowstone,” he added. “We’re taking the optimistic approach.”

Riverside Contracting, Inc., of Missoula, Mont., has begun work on the Whit Creek crossing just west of Wapiti School.

The \$8.7 million highway improvement project will upgrade and widen the roadway on about four miles of US 14-16-20. This section is west of Cody, between Wapiti and the east boundary of the Shoshone Forest.

In addition to replacing more than 50 pipes used for drainage and at creek crossings, road shoulders will be widened another two feet to eight feet.

The shoulders will have a much more gradual slope off the road, Beers explained, “in case you’re forced to exit off the road.” With the wider roads, motorists can see wildlife and slow down sooner and perhaps prevent a crash, he added.

Riverside Contracting has solid experience working in this climate, Beers said, and the contractor has worked extensively in Wyoming.

“Motorists should expect single-lane driving conditions, a gravel detour, reduced speed limits, possible night flagging, and delays of up to 20 minutes while the Whit Creek crossing is being installed,” WYDOT resident engineer Todd Frost said.

There may be short detours and one-way traffic for this work, Frost added, and traffic will be controlled by flaggers.

The entire project, including chip seal, fencing and reclamation work, is to be complete by Sept. 30. A second year-long project of about the same length, but requiring less extensive work, is expected to begin in 2016. It will stretch from about Wapiti School to the Wapiti Post Office.

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#### **NPS budget proposal up, but Wyo. parks level**

POSTED: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015 4:30 AM

*By Mike Koshmrl , Jackson Hole Daily*

Base funding for Wyoming’s two national parks will stay about the same if President Obama’s budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 moves forward unaltered.

The proposal would boost the National Park Service’s allocation by nearly 15 percent, to \$3 billion, in a year the agency celebrates its centennial.

Yellowstone National Park’s allocation would rise by about 3 percent to \$35.2 million. Base funds for Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway would climb by closer to 1 percent to \$13.1 million.

Despite not seeing the sizable bump its parent agency might enjoy, Grand Teton officials said the proposed budget would be a boon overall. For instance, Grand Teton would get \$13 million in addition to its base allocation to pay for a new wastewater treatment facility at Moose, spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs said. Because the federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and the cash won’t come through until then, construction will tentatively begin once the snow melts off about a year from now, she said.

The proposed budget is also structured to shore up Grand Teton park’s staff, Skaggs said.

“There is a nod to additional seasonal staff, funding that will help us hire seasonal staff for the Centennial Initiative,” Skaggs said. “We’re looking at augmenting our seasonal workforce.”

A centerpiece of Obama’s National Park Service budget proposal is the Centennial Initiative, which includes discretionary increases of \$326.3 million.

In total the president’s budget request for the agency is \$432.9 million higher than the current year’s budget. Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash understands why his park’s proposed 2016 allocation is only 3 percent higher than 2015 funding levels — a small jump compared with the nationwide Park Service increase.

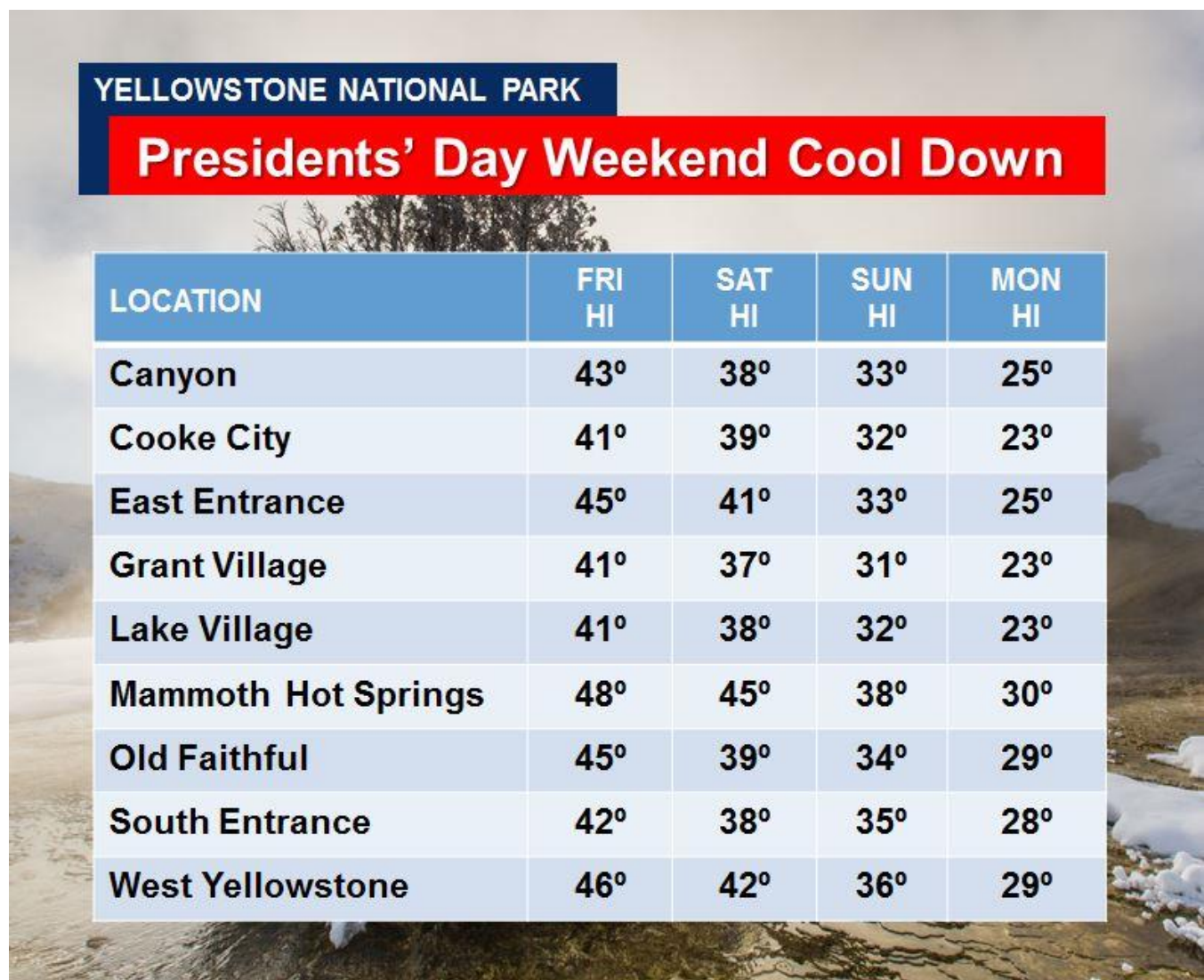
“There are over 401 units in the Park Service,” Nash said, “and the money’s got to go to a lot of places.”

Base budget allocations pay for about half of all the expenses Yellowstone incurs in a typical year, he said. “Depending on the year we’re going to spend \$65 [million] to \$70 million operating Yellowstone National Park,” he said. “And that doesn’t count the money that the concession operators spend.”

Parks also generate revenue at their gates, through public-private partnerships and elsewhere.

“This centennial budget is really the cornerstone for the next 100 years of stewardship of America’s natural, cultural and historic resources,” Grand Teton Superintendent David Vela said in a statement, “and it highlights the importance of investing in these treasured resources for the benefit of future generations.”

## **WEATHER**



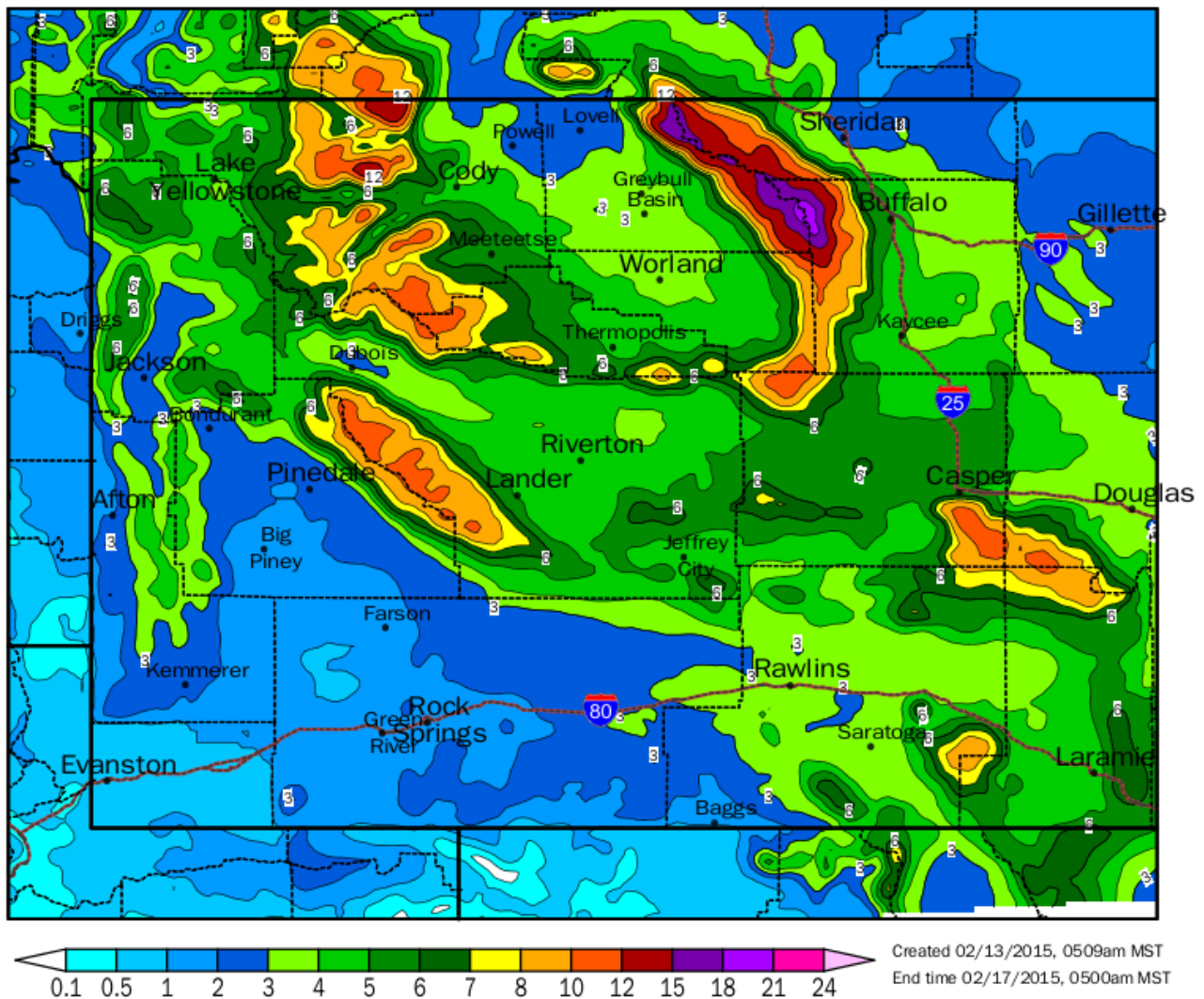
**YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK**

**Presidents' Day Weekend Cool Down**

| LOCATION            | FRI<br>HI | SAT<br>HI | SUN<br>HI | MON<br>HI |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Canyon              | 43°       | 38°       | 33°       | 25°       |
| Cooke City          | 41°       | 39°       | 32°       | 23°       |
| East Entrance       | 45°       | 41°       | 33°       | 25°       |
| Grant Village       | 41°       | 37°       | 31°       | 23°       |
| Lake Village        | 41°       | 38°       | 32°       | 23°       |
| Mammoth Hot Springs | 48°       | 45°       | 38°       | 30°       |
| Old Faithful        | 45°       | 39°       | 34°       | 29°       |
| South Entrance      | 42°       | 38°       | 35°       | 28°       |
| West Yellowstone    | 46°       | 42°       | 36°       | 29°       |



## Next 4-day Snow Forecast (in)



### WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 17, 2015



So glad to see some areas still have snow! Someone shoveled out a nice couch for people at Tower ski trailhead to sit on when taking boots on or off.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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A couple small keys were found next to one of the cardboard recycling bins yesterday mid afternoon. They are numbered, similar to those used for locks such as Thule or Yakima racks, but have a different logo. They are in VSO waiting to be claimed.

-----

**The Chili/Potluck and Bonfire with S'mores is on for tonight at MCC. This is a chance to come together as a community. However, sledding will have to wait for SNOW!** Tuesday, Feb. 17 @ 6 pm. \$5 entry fee for the chili challenge! (donations accepted for tasters) All \$ goes back to MCC. BIG prizes for chili contest winners! Please bring chili fixings or any dish to share. Watch our website for updates!

<http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>

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**EMPLOYEE RECREATION – Upcoming Events**

**SEMINARS**

**Winter Survival Stories: A Wildlife Seminar**

Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm in the Snow Lodge Employee Pub

Could you use your head as a snowplow or stay warm when temperatures plummet below 0°F? Discover some of the amazing adaptations wildlife possess to cope with the severity of winter in Yellowstone.

*Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.*

AND



**Death, Sex, and Aliens: Fictional Stories Set in Yellowstone**

Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 pm in the Conference Room next to the Mammoth Recreation Hall

What do secret baby daddies, aliens, and the apocalypse have in common?

Join park librarian Jessi Gerdes to find out!

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**Upcoming CPR classes!**

**Heartsaver CPR and First Aid**

March 24, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

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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**MAMMOTH GENERAL  
STORES  
11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**



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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 923 AM MST TUE FEB 17 2015

**Today:** Partly cloudy. Highs 23 to 29. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. Lows 11 to 17. West winds around 15 mph until early morning.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny. Highs 30 to 36.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 14 to 20. West winds around 15 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy. Highs 32 to 38. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Lows 17 to 23. Chance of snow 20 percent.

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Wednesday, February 18, 2015



This grizzly bear was seen Monday feeding on a bison carcass across the Yellowstone River approximately 280 yards away. The photo was taken through a spotting scope. (photo by Angela Trnka)

## .ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Morey Family has returned to the Mammoth area and several community members are coordinating the many offers of help from their friends & neighbors.

A memorial service for Peter Morey will be held this Sunday, Feb. 22, at 1:30 pm at the Gardiner School gymnasium. It will be followed by a potluck meal in the multi-purpose room; some gluten-free foods would be appreciated by the family. Please contact Debby Young (344-2301) for information on the pot-luck.

Please contact Barbara Bush for information on meals that the family may need before and after the Sunday Memorial Service.

If you have, or know of a vacation rental that might be made available for incoming family & friends of the Morey's, please contact Carmen Harbach at (406) 223-0995.

More information is available on the Mammoth/Gardiner Community FB Page (<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/640111456007424/>)

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*Presented by Katy Duffy, recently retired YNP resource education ranger.*

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#### Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel!

Potluck party will be on Tuesday, March 10th from 6-8pm at the Mammoth Community Center gym. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell to our friends as they move on to their next adventure!



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March 24, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

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**Mammoth Clinic seeking a full time receptionist; benefits included.** Previous medical experience desired but not necessary. Interested parties should contact Deb Brown with resume at 406-640-1388 or [dbrown@medcor.com](mailto:dbrown@medcor.com)

**RECENT NEWS RELEASES****Recent Warm Weather Prompts Winter Access Changes In Yellowstone**

A long stretch of above normal temperatures, limited snowfall, and oversnow traffic have all resulted in a dramatic reduction in the snowpack on the road segments linking West Yellowstone and Old Faithful.



*The road centerline and sections of wet pavement are clearly visible in this image taken along a section of the road linking West Yellowstone and Madison Junction.*

the park from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful.

There are many areas along the road from West Yellowstone through Madison Junction to Old Faithful where large portions of the pavement are visible. This results in unsafe operating conditions for snowmobiles and snowcoaches with ski steering.

Due to these circumstances as well as the current and forecast weather conditions, as of Tuesday morning, February 17, guided visitor travel on this road segment is limited to commercial snowcoaches with rubber tracks or commercial wheeled vehicles.

Despite the changing conditions, visitors may not use their own private wheeled vehicles to travel into

The park has worked with groups who had planned a guided snowmobile tour into the park originating from West Yellowstone, and has found ways for most if not all of them to travel into the interior of the park.

Conditions on all other interior park roads which are groomed for commercial and non-commercially guided snowmobiles and commercial snowcoaches remain fair to good.

Guided travel from West Yellowstone to Old Faithful will continue as scheduled through March 15.

Park staff members continue to closely monitor oversnow road conditions and weather forecasts. Improving or deteriorating conditions may prompt further changes to motorized oversnow access in the coming days.

The road from the park's North Entrance at Gardiner, Mont., through Mammoth Hot Springs and on to Cooke City, Mont., outside the park's Northeast Entrance is open to automobile travel all year.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 753 AM MST WED FEB 18 2015

**Today:** Mostly cloudy then becoming partly cloudy late in the morning then becoming mostly sunny. Highs 32 to 38. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

**Tonight:** Breezy. Mostly clear then becoming partly cloudy after midnight then becoming mostly clear. Lows 13 to 19. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny. Highs 33 to 39. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow after midnight. Lows 17 to 23.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Highs 26 to 32.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 11 to 17.

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Randy Froelich and Bud Hoeme "getting down and dirty" at First Aid/CPR course yesterday.  
(photo by Colette Daigle-Berg)

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We are fortunate to have the opportunity to show the film “An American Ascent” to staff at both Mammoth and Snow Lodge this month (Feb 22/23). Fitting in nicely with Black History month and the National Parks, American Ascent is a feature documentary about the first African American expedition to tackle North America's highest peak, Denali.

From the website:

*In only a few decades the United States will become a majority-minority nation, as people of color will outnumber the white majority for the first time ever. Yet, a staggering number of these people do not consider the outdoors as a place for them. In June 2013, nine African Americans set out to build a legacy and become role models for inner city kids and people of color all over America to encourage them to get outside. They did so by taking on the grueling, 20,320 foot peak of the continent's biggest mountain.*

Bonus: the filmmaker will be available for questions after the show. TiVo the Oscars and join us!

-----



**Thirty years of dedication to Wonderland.** Please join us for an evening of food and stories on the side to **congratulate Eleanor Clark on her retirement** and wish her well in her coming adventures. Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association!

-----



**Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel!**  
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**IN THE NEWS**

**YNP bison trap unlikely to meet target**

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Chronicle

Posted: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:00 pm

Similar to any other livestock corral and holding area, the dirt of the fenced-off areas near Stephens Creek is tattooed with the hoof prints of hundreds of animals. But in the Stephens Creek Bison Capture Facility, the prints are some of the last that the trapped bison make.

Normally, the facility in Yellowstone National Park is closed to all but authorized park officials. Signs and a gate block access to the dirt road leading to the 20-year-old facility inside the park boundary near Gardiner.

The gate opens on some early mornings when trailers of bison leave the facility headed for slaughter facilities in Big Timber and Columbus.

But on Wednesday, park managers allowed a limited tour of the facility for interested organizations, partly as a result of a demand letter from the Buffalo Field Campaign and freelance journalist Christopher Ketcham.

“We sent a letter of demands to the park and threatened to sue. So this is the response,” said BFC spokeswoman Stephanie Seay.

Park bison wrangler Brian Helms said full access wasn’t allowed because it would spook the 45 or so bison that wandered around in five pens.

During the morning, those bison had been pushed through the narrowing raceways and squeeze chutes and were then separated into the pens based upon sex and size.

Their blood was drawn while in the squeeze chutes, and bison biologist Rick Wallen already knew which animals were carrying evidence of brucellosis.

The disease is one of the reasons given for confining bison to the park and a few limited areas.

“My initial impression is that exposure rates are about the same as in previous years,” Wallen said.

Previous estimates have been close to 50 percent. But as of Feb. 13, park data show that 38 percent of 327 bison had brucellosis antibodies in their blood.

But infected or not, the 45 bison were headed for the slaughter houses Thursday morning.

That would leave about 60 bison grazing on provided hay in a fenced field.

“We’ll be working the 60 tomorrow. We don’t like to keep them in the pens for more than one night, so we leave them out there until we’re ready. Once they learn about going through the chute, they don’t want to do it again,” Helms said.

Helms walked above the raceways and pens on a steel catwalk that not only allowed him to see the animals in the pens but also usually keeps the animals from seeing him.

“We work from an elevated position because they don’t usually look up,” Helms said. “The wood walls serve as a visual barrier that keeps them calm.”

It also helps keep the bison moving in one direction down the raceways because bison won’t go where they can’t see.

Gallatin Wildlife Association president Glenn Hockett toured the facility several years ago.

“Back then, we were allowed to watch them work the bison. Saw them slam the animals in the chute and saw bulls gore each other. Now they have this nice shiny version of a tour,” Hockett said. “They’ve definitely improved some things and they’ve gotten better at handling the media. But to me, they’re learning to do the wrong things right.”

Paradise Valley ranchers disagree. They want fewer bison in the park so fewer bison come out of the park.

Currently, the Interagency Bison Management Plan sets a target population of 3,000 bison.

But during last year’s count, the park held around 4,900 bison. IBMP partners agreed to eliminate 900 bison through hunting and slaughter.

About 400 bison have been slaughtered and hunters have shot another 150.

With more than 300 bison to go, the park is running out of time.

The park usually closes the capture facility around March 1 to avoid capturing bison that are close to giving birth.

But with the recent bout of warm weather, the bison have moved back into the park to graze and may not emerge before March 1.

“We haven’t trapped any for more than a week,” Helms said.

Read more: [http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/ynp-bison-trap-unlikely-to-meet-target/article\\_d10a037b-206a-5670-b650-cd096ff2390b.html?utm\\_medium=desktop&utm\\_source=block\\_484704&utm\\_campaign=blox](http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/ynp-bison-trap-unlikely-to-meet-target/article_d10a037b-206a-5670-b650-cd096ff2390b.html?utm_medium=desktop&utm_source=block_484704&utm_campaign=blox)

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## **More than 500 Yellowstone bison killed so far this winter**

18 hours ago • By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

More than 500 wild bison from Yellowstone National Park have been sent to slaughter, killed by hunters or removed for experimental research this winter.

State and federal officials want to reduce the park's bison population by up to 900 animals this winter as part of a long-term effort to curb their winter migration into Montana. That equals about 18 percent of the 4,900 bison counted in the park last summer.

Figures released Wednesday show that so far this season, 333 bison have been captured and transferred to American Indian tribes for slaughter.

Ten more captured animals were transferred into an experimental animal contraception program, and three died while being held inside the park's bison holding pens near Gardiner.

Another 166 have been killed by hunters, primarily by members of four Indian tribes with longstanding treaty rights that allow them to take Yellowstone bison.

Only 27 state-licensed hunters killed a bison during a season that closed Feb. 15. Members of the Salish and Kootenai tribes killed 110 bison, and the remaining animals were harvested by members of the Nez Perce, Shoshone Bannock and Umatilla tribes.

Wildlife advocates and members of Congress have for years criticized the capture and slaughter program as unnecessary. But supporters in the agriculture industry argue that it's needed to prevent bison infected with brucellosis from transmitting the animal disease to livestock.

Officials from counties adjacent to Yellowstone say it's also a matter of public safety and potential property damage, given that bison leaving the park sometimes enter residential areas.

Out of 327 captured bison tested for exposure to brucellosis this winter, 123 animals, or about 38 percent, tested positive, according to state and federal officials.

Montana State Veterinarian Marty Zaluski said Wednesday that he appreciated the park's commitment to reduce Yellowstone's bison herds and prevent more of the animals from spilling into Montana.

However, he added that too few bison have been killed to significantly reduce the population. Once this year's births are factored in, "we're holding even," Zaluski said.

"Ultimately the population is the driver of the majority of the conflict at the boundary of Yellowstone National Park — private property, disease and public safety," he added. "You're just not making any headway reducing those issues if you're population is at nearly 5,000 animals."

Read more: [http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/more-than-yellowstone-bison-killed-so-far-this-winter/article\\_0955bfe9-3331-5f6e-969a-76b7125cd248.html#ixzz3SCtziPJr](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/more-than-yellowstone-bison-killed-so-far-this-winter/article_0955bfe9-3331-5f6e-969a-76b7125cd248.html#ixzz3SCtziPJr)

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 706 AM MST THU FEB 19 2015

**Today:** Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 34 to 40. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy. Isolated snow showers late in the evening. Scattered snow showers after midnight. Lows 16 to 22. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of snow 50 percent.

**Friday:** Snow likely in the morning...then chance of snow showers in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Northwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy with chance of snow showers in the evening...then partly cloudy with chance of snow after midnight. Lows 10 to 16. Chance of snow 40 percent.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 21 to 27. North winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. Wind chill readings 11 below to 21 below zero.

**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](mailto: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

**CONTRIBUTE TO THE PARK'S SOCIAL MEDIA!**

The Social Media Team invites you to contribute photos and ideas to share with Yellowstone's followers on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and flickr! The park posts photos and information on current conditions, noteworthy sightings, park activities, timely messages, and photos and stories of staff doing their jobs. Any photos sent should be in the public domain, not copyrighted. Please email them to [yell\\_socialmedia@nps.gov](mailto:yell_socialmedia@nps.gov). Thank you!

**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.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, February 20, 2015



Impressive snow slide during last Friday's heat wave!  
(Photo by Evan Dickey)

## .ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jen has asked that digital photos of Peter be put in a frame for his service Sunday. If you, or your kids, have any you would like to share, please let Charissa Reid know ([Charissa\\_Reid@nps.gov](mailto:Charissa_Reid@nps.gov) or 344-2260)

A memorial service for Peter Morey will be held this Sunday, Feb. 22, at 1:30 pm at the Gardiner School gymnasium. It will be followed by a potluck meal in the multi-purpose room; some gluten-free foods would be appreciated by the family. Please contact Debby Young (344-2301) for information on the pot-luck.

Please contact Barbara Bush for information on meals that the family may need before and after the Sunday Memorial Service.

If you have, or know of a vacation rental that might be made available for incoming family & friends of the Morey's, please contact Carmen Harbach at (406) 223-0995.

More information is available on the Mammoth/Gardiner Community FB Page (<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/640111456007424/>)

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**The road from the Mammoth Terraces to Golden gate/North End of Swan Lake is no longer open to snowmobiles.** Starting this morning, only wheeled vehicles and rubber tracked rigs will be allowed on that section of road. Please coordinate shuttles if you are coming from the Interior or going to the Interior.

The back road for Admin travel is covered with snow and ice about 50/50. Folks can utilize that road if needed for snowmobiling to & from the Interior - but be aware that the lower stretch will have some vehicles on it up to the water plant. Please use caution getting to the back road from Swan Lake and watch your speed on the back road. Conditions are marginal. We are working on getting some parking and staging areas set up just south of Golden Gate.

**CAUTION!** Heavy equipment and mixed travel will require extra vigilance and flexibility on everyone's part.

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The uploading Purchase Request (PR) process has changed. Call Andrea Hannon at (406) 888-7870. Training can be provided any time Monday-Friday. To access PR forms, instructions and to upload a purchase request please visit: <http://share.inside.nps.gov/sites/IMR/Requisitions/SitePages/Home.aspx>

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**We are fortunate to have the opportunity to show the film “An American Ascent” to staff at both Mammoth and Snow Lodge this month (Feb 22/23).** Fitting in nicely with Black History month and the National Parks, American Ascent is a feature documentary about the first African American expedition to tackle North America's highest peak, Denali.

**Mammoth Conference Room, Sunday, February 22 at 8 p.m.**  
**Snow Lodge Meeting Room, Monday, February 23 at 7 p.m.**

Stick around for a Q & A with film maker George Potter after the approximately 60 min movie!  
 From the website:

*In only a few decades the United States will become a majority-minority nation, as people of color will outnumber the white majority for the first time ever. Yet, a staggering number of these people do not consider the outdoors as a place for them. In June 2013, nine African Americans set out to build a legacy and become role models for inner city kids and people of color all over America to encourage them to get outside. They did so by taking on the grueling, 20,320 foot peak of the continent's biggest mountain.*

**TiVo the Oscars and join us!**

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**Thirty years of dedication to Wonderland.** Please join us for an evening of food and stories on the side to **congratulate Eleanor Clark on her retirement** and wish her well in her coming adventures. Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association!

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**Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel!** Potluck party will be on Tuesday, March 10th from 6-8pm at the Mammoth Community Center gym. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell to our friends as they move on to their next adventure!



-----

**Upcoming CPR classes!****Heartsaver CPR and First Aid**

February 23, 2015      8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

February 24, 2015      8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

March 24, 2015      8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

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****Study: Half of Paradise Valley elk exposed to disease**

*Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle Staff Writer*

Posted: Thursday, February 19, 2015 6:00 pm

Results from recent sampling show that a greater percentage of elk have been exposed to brucellosis in the Paradise Valley than previously thought.

In early February, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists finished capturing and testing elk in the Mill Creek area on the east side of the Paradise Valley near Emigrant and the North Absaroka area east of Livingston just south of Interstate 90.

Of the 30 elk cows captured in the Mill Creek area, 53 percent tested positive for having been exposed to brucellosis.

That percentage is equivalent to the level of positive test results in Yellowstone bison.

“Obviously we understand that producers, landowners and sportsmen will be concerned about these numbers,” said FWP Director Jeff Hagener. “We have been, and we will continue to work with all groups to address concerns about the commingling of elk, and cattle and management efforts to reduce that commingling, during the transmission risk period.”

FWP will try to control transmission of the disease to cattle by using the tools of hazing, damage hunts and fencing as outlined in the 2015 elk brucellosis working group plan.

The elk that tested positive and eight that tested negative were radio collared for tracking purposes and future testing.

Eleven of the 16 elk that tested positive were pregnant, so the fate of their pregnancies will be monitored.

It was a different story on the northern front of the Absaroka Mountains.

Of the 63 females tested, two tested positive, indicating that so far, the mountains may be acting as a barrier.

The two elk were also pregnant, so they were fitted with radio collars. Another 22 elk that tested negative were also collared.

In previous years, FWP has found lower levels — around 10 to 15 percent — of brucellosis in elk in the Pioneer and Tobacco Root mountains and areas near the Madison Valley.

The elk capture program is funded by FWP and a grant from USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service.

## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 738 AM MST FRI FEB 20 2015

### [Winter Weather Advisory until 5:00 am Saturday for Yellowstone National Park](#)

**Today:** Numerous snow showers. Snow accumulation of 2 to 3 inches. Highs 26 to 32. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Tonight:** Numerous snow showers until early morning...then scattered snow showers early in the morning. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 3 to 6 inches. Lows 11 to 17. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow showers. Highs 19 to 25. Northeast winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Much colder. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow showers in the evening...then mostly clear after midnight. Lows 1 below to 7 below zero. Northeast winds around 15 mph.

**Sunday:** Mostly sunny. Highs 14 to 20. Lowest wind chill readings 13 below to 23 below zero in the morning.

**Sunday Night:** Clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 3 below to 9 below zero.

**Monday:** Not as cold. Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 25 to 31. Lowest wind chill readings 15 below to 25 below zero in the morning.

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# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

**Monday, February 23, 2015**

**Borrowed Time-** By Shannon Morey

(Comm. Center seasonal employee and Peter's sister-used with permission)

*Our life is ours, but our breath is borrowed.*

*Shouldn't we treat it with care instead of polluting the air?*

*We need to speak with kind sweet words and not chatter on like wicked birds.*

*We smile and project perfection, but that may be on the crust, when really within we feel loneliness, wariness, and sadness we can't adjust. The world is good, it does have evil in it, but the evil won't hurt you if you keep the good lit. Light it up, nice and bright, and soon you will see it come to life.*

*You will see it in the rivers and the trees, in the elk and the fish and even in the breeze. You will hear it all around on every living thing's breath; that in life you shouldn't be afraid of death.*

*In death we are born into something new, we become the sweet words that we strived to use.*

*So make good use of your borrowed breath, use it to make life in death.*

*The thought is simple, but yet divine; we should make good use of our borrowed time.*

## **.ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The road from the Mammoth Terraces to Golden gate/North End of Swan Lake is no longer open to snowmobiles,** only wheeled vehicles and rubber tracked rigs will be allowed on that section of road. Please coordinate shuttles if you are coming from the Interior or going to the Interior.

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**The Finance Office will be closed on Thursday, Feb 26, 2015.** Deliveries can be made to the VSO. Thanks!

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**Please communicate with VSO directly for any courier needs for the Feb 26th and March 3rd courier runs.** There will be a sub on Feb 26th and Rachel will be returning to work from A/L on the morning of the 3rd and heading straight into the park. Thanks!

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**The copy center will be closed this Friday February 27.** The two main black and white copiers will be left on for folks needing to print to them. Contact Scott in the property office, he will retrieve your items for you. **The mailroom will be open for business.** If you have questions about mail, call Scott and he will be able to help you.

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We are fortunate to have the opportunity to show the film “An American Ascent” to staff. Fitting in nicely with Black History month and the National Parks, American Ascent is a feature documentary about the first African American expedition to tackle North America's highest peak, Denali.

**Snow Lodge Meeting Room, Monday, February 23 at 7 p.m.** Stick around for a Q & A with film maker George Potter after the approximately 60 min movie!

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**After thirty years of dedication to Wonderland, Eleanor Clark is retiring.** Please join us for an evening of food and stories to **congratulate Eleanor Clark on her retirement** and wish her well in her coming adventures. Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association!

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### **Upcoming CPR classes!**

#### **Heartsaver CPR and First Aid**

**February 24, 2015** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

**March 24, 2015** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

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**

#### **Photo Contest Results**



**“Three Amigos” 2<sup>nd</sup> Place People Category by Lloyd Krueger**

View the full results of the Employee Photo Contest at [ycerp.org](http://ycerp.org).

**People**

| <u>Place</u>    | <u>Title</u>                  | <u>Photographer</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Employer</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Riding Into the Sunset</i> | Jake Frank          | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Three Amigos</i>           | Lloyd Krueger       | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Storyteller</i>            | Joanne Tournade     | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| HM              | <i>Look What I Found</i>      | Diane Hilborn       | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |

**Scenic**

| <u>Place</u>    | <u>Title</u>                                | <u>Photographer</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Employer</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Castle Geyser Eruption &amp; Rainbow</i> | Jake Frank          | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Snowcapped Mountain Sunset</i>           | Deborah Hammond     | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Moonset</i>                              | Deanie Carlton      | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| HM              | <i>It Was Winter When I Got Here</i>        | MaryEllen Hackett   | Mammoth         | NPS             |

**Wildlife**

| <u>Place</u>    | <u>Title</u>                                 | <u>Photographer</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Employer</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Look At All Those Crazy Photographers</i> | Dylan Schneider     | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>A Magpie's Feast</i>                      | Joanne Tournade     | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Ready, Set, Pounce</i>                    | April Henderson     | Old Faithful    | Xanterra        |
| HM              | <i>Shhh! Don't Tell Them I'm Here!</i>       | Lisa Culpepper      | Old Faithful    | Xanterra        |

**SEMINAR**

**The Genius of Robert Reamer: Yellowstone and Beyond**

**Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Employee Pub**

Famed architect Robert Reamer did more than just build the Old Faithful Inn. Follow his career path and his unique contribution to American architecture with historian Ruth Quinn.

**Bear Spray for Sale \$35** Protect yourself and support the Recreation Program by buying your bear spray in the Parkwide Office for the low price of \$35! Due to irregular office hours please call 344-5224 or 344-5225 before visiting the office.

**IN THE NEWS**

**The Bison Harvest: An inside look at the Stephens Creek bison capture facility**

Published: Thu, 02/19/2015 - 1:00pm Liz Kearney — Livingston Enterprise

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Warm weather and low snowfall this winter have sent Yellowstone National Park bison back into the park's higher country — safe from hazing and slaughter when they cross the park's boundaries.

Park officials have been tasked this winter, through the Interagency Bison Management Plan, to remove 800 to 900 bison from the park's native herd. Wildlife managers counted about 4,900 animals in the herd recently. Under the IBMP, the goal is to keep the herd at around 3,000 animals.

The park has shipped about 450 bison to slaughter so far this winter, and Native Americans, with tribal hunting rights, have taken approximately 150 other animals, Rick Wallen, Yellowstone's bison biologist said Wednesday.

Wallen, along with other park staff, conducted a Wednesday media tour of the park's Stephens Creek bison capture facility. The facility is located within the park's boundaries off the Old Yellowstone Trail a few miles north of Gardiner.

About 45 animals were penned in a chuted holding pen Wednesday. They had been sorted by sex and relative age, weighed and their blood drawn for brucellosis testing.

From the data collected from the blood samples, Wallen said about 50 percent of the bison test positive for exposure to brucellosis by the time they are 3 or more years old. Brucellosis lies at the center of bison management because the disease, if contracted by domestic livestock, can cause pregnant cattle to abort their calves.

Bison that test negative for brucellosis are sent to slaughter along with the ones that test positive.

There's no mechanism in the IBMP for sending the animals that test negative back into the park or off to Indian tribes interested in accepting the animals, Wallen said.

Each bison in the pen had a numbered tag on its flank. They were slated to be shipped to slaughter in Columbus or Big Timber on Thursday morning, their meat to be distributed to Native American tribes.

About 65 bison were nearby in larger, more open corrals. Those animals will be moved into the holding pens to await slaughter soon after the holding pens are emptied.

Some bison that wander into the area are hazed into the corrals. Some, attracted to the hay within the fenced area, walk in freely.

And some bison are allowed to remain outside the corrals so there are animals available for the tribal hunt, Wallen said.

But with warm weather, most bison had moved into the park's higher country near the Blacktail Plateau between Mammoth Hot Springs and Tower, Wallen said.

No bison were visible Wednesday — a warm, cloudless day — outside the capture facility. Mule deer and pronghorn antelope dotted the landscape between Gardiner and the capture facility.

Wallen said the capture and slaughter is brought to a close each year by the first week of March.

The early March date, he said, is selected in order to stop harassing the animals when many of the females may be close to calving. The bison headed to slaughter milled around in the holding pen. Their grunts and an occasional sound like a kick against the plywood-walled chutes of the pen could be heard.

Park staff allowed reporters, photographers and a few members of the general public, including representatives from pro-wildlife advocacy groups, to ascend the walkways that looked down on the penned animals.

Park employees asked those in attendance to keep their voices lowered to avoid upsetting the penned animals, in order to be "respectful" of them.

"We're asked to be respectful of the animals, but how is this respectful?" asked Glenn Hockett, president of the Bozeman-based Gallatin Wildlife Association and a long-term bison advocate. "How ironic that they're getting shipped to slaughter tomorrow," he said.

Read more: <http://www.livingstonenterprise.com/content/bison-harvest-inside-look-stephens-creek-bison-capture-facility>

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**Study: Half of elk near Emigrant exposed to disease**

Laura Lundquist, Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Posted: 3:03 pm, Fri Feb 20, 2015.

Results from recent sampling show that a greater percentage of elk have been exposed to brucellosis in the Paradise Valley than previously thought.

In early February, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists finished capturing and testing elk in the Mill Creek area on the east side of the Paradise Valley near Emigrant and the North Absaroka area east of Livingston just south of Interstate 90.

Of the 30 elk cows captured in the Mill Creek area, 53 percent tested positive for having been exposed to brucellosis.

That percentage is equivalent to the level of positive test results in Yellowstone bison.

“Obviously we understand that producers, landowners and sportsmen will be concerned about these numbers,” said FWP Director Jeff Hagener. “We have been, and we will continue to work with all groups to address concerns about the commingling of elk, and cattle and management efforts to reduce that commingling, during the transmission risk period.”

FWP will try to control transmission of the disease to cattle by using the tools of hazing, damage hunts and fencing as outlined in the 2015 elk brucellosis working group plan.

The elk that tested positive and eight that tested negative were radio collared for tracking purposes and future testing.

Eleven of the 16 elk that tested positive were pregnant, so the fate of their pregnancies will be monitored.

It was a different story on the northern front of the Absaroka Mountains.

Of the 63 females tested, two tested positive, indicating that so far, the mountains may be acting as a barrier.

The two elk were also pregnant, so they were fitted with radio collars. Another 22 elk that tested negative were also collared.

In previous years, FWP has sampled elk in the mountains to the west. No elk tested positive in the Tobacco Root and Pioneer mountains, but one third of the elk tested positive in areas south and west of the Gravelly Mountains.

The elk capture program is funded by FWP and a grant from USDA’s Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service.

Read more: [http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/study-half-of-elk-near-emigrant-exposed-to-disease/article\\_8ba4b516-b77f-516f-90fe-b76f247d6649.html?utm\\_medium=desktop&utm\\_source=block\\_674295&utm\\_campaign=blox](http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/environment/study-half-of-elk-near-emigrant-exposed-to-disease/article_8ba4b516-b77f-516f-90fe-b76f247d6649.html?utm_medium=desktop&utm_source=block_674295&utm_campaign=blox)

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 907 AM MST MON FEB 23 2015**Today:** Mostly sunny. Patchy fog in the late morning and early afternoon. Highs 24 to 30.**Tonight:** Clear. Patchy fog after midnight. Lows 7 to 13.

**Tuesday:** Partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Highs 31 to 37. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

**Tuesday Night:** Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows around 15. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

**Wednesday:** Snow likely in the morning...then snow likely and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Snow accumulation around 2 inches. Highs 24 to 30. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

**Wednesday Night:** Colder. Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 2 to 8.

### **WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!**

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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!

# YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

## .ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The road from the Mammoth Terraces to Golden gate/North End of Swan Lake is no longer open to snowmobiles**, only wheeled vehicles and rubber tracked rigs will be allowed on that section of road. Please coordinate shuttles if you are coming from the Interior or going to the Interior.

The back road for Admin travel is covered with snow and ice about 50/50. Folks can utilize that road if needed for snowmobiling to & from the Interior - but be aware that the lower stretch will have some vehicles on it up to the water plant. Please use caution getting to the back road from Swan Lake and watch your speed on the back road. Conditions are marginal. We are working on getting some parking and staging areas set up just south of Golden Gate. **CAUTION!** Heavy equipment and mixed travel will require extra vigilance and flexibility on everyone's part.

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**The Finance Office will be closed on Thursday, Feb 26, 2015.** Deliveries can be made to the VSO. Thanks!

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**The copy center will be closed this Friday February 27.** The two main black and white copiers will be left on for folks needing to print to them. Contact Scott in the property office, he will retrieve your items for you. **The mailroom will be open for business.** If you have questions about mail, call Scott and he will be able to help you.

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If you have any questions please email, [george\\_herrman@nps.gov](mailto:george_herrman@nps.gov) or call x2439.

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**After thirty years of dedication to Wonderland**, Eleanor Clark is retiring. Please join us for an evening of food and stories to **congratulate Eleanor Clark on her retirement** and wish her well in her coming adventures. Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association!

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**Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Keel!** Potluck party will be on Tuesday, March 10th from the Mammoth Community Center gym. Bring a dish to and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell friends as they move on to their next adventure!



**Temia**  
6-8pm at  
share  
to our

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### Upcoming CPR classes!

#### Heartsaver CPR and First Aid

**February 24, 2015** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

**March 24, 2015** 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

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

#### Photo Contest Results

View the full results of the Employee Photo Contest at [ycerp.org](http://ycerp.org).

#### People

| <u>Place</u>    | <u>Title</u>                  | <u>Photographer</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Employer</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Riding Into the Sunset</i> | Jake Frank          | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Three Amigos</i>           | Lloyd Krueger       | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Storyteller</i>            | Joanne Tournade     | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| HM              | <i>Look What I Found</i>      | Diane Hilborn       | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |

#### Scenic

| <u>Place</u>    | <u>Title</u>                                | <u>Photographer</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Employer</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Castle Geyser Eruption &amp; Rainbow</i> | Jake Frank          | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>Snowcapped Mountain Sunset</i>           | Deborah Hammond     | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Moonset</i>                              | Deanie Carlton      | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| HM              | <i>It Was Winter When I Got Here</i>        | MaryEllen Hackett   | Mammoth         | NPS             |

#### Wildlife

| <u>Place</u>    | <u>Title</u>                                 | <u>Photographer</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Employer</u> |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | <i>Look At All Those Crazy Photographers</i> | Dylan Schneider     | Mammoth         | NPS             |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | <i>A Magpie's Feast</i>                      | Joanne Tournade     | Mammoth         | Xanterra        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | <i>Ready, Set, Pounce</i>                    | April Henderson     | Old Faithful    | Xanterra        |
| HM              | <i>Shhh! Don't Tell Them I'm Here!</i>       | Lisa Culpepper      | Old Faithful    | Xanterra        |

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Famed architect Robert Reamer did more than just build the Old Faithful Inn. Follow his career path and his unique contribution to American architecture with historian Ruth Quinn.

**Bear Spray for Sale \$35** Protect yourself and support the Recreation Program by buying your bear spray in the Parkwide Office for the low price of \$35! Due to irregular office hours please call 344-5224 or 344-5225 before visiting the office.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 636 AM MST TUE FEB 24 2015

**Today:** Partly cloudy. Patchy fog in the morning. Slight chance of snow early in the afternoon. Slight chance of rain and snow late in the afternoon. Highs 32 to 38. West winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows around 16. West winds around 15 mph.

**Wednesday:** Snow likely. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Highs 22 to 28. Northwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 70 percent.

**Wednesday Night:** Colder...cloudy. Snow likely in the evening... Then chance of snow after midnight. Little or no snow accumulation. Lows 1 below to 5 above zero. Northwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of snow 60 percent.

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow in the evening. Lows 2 below to 4 above zero.

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# YNP@Work

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Wednesday, February 25, 2015

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**Please join us for a Farewell Potluck for Dr. Joe and Temia Keel!** Potluck party will be on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at the Mammoth Community Center gym. Bring a dish to share and the beverage of your choice. Join us to say farewell to our friends as they move on to their next adventure!



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**Lane Baker has retired!** Please join Lane and her Yellowstone friends in celebrating her distinguished career with the NPS! April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Chico Hot Springs. RSVP needed by March 11 via email to Tara Ross and Bonnie Schwartz at [laneparty@gmail.com](mailto:laneparty@gmail.com). Upon your RVSP they will send you specific information on cost, lodging, etc. Questions, call 307-344-2301 or 307-344-2881.

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#### **Heartsaver CPR and First Aid**

March 24, 2015 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at the Mammoth EMS classroom

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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## **EMPLOYEE RECREATION**

### **SEMINAR**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 651 AM MST WED FEB 25 2015

**Today:** Cloudy. Chance of snow in the morning...then scattered snow showers in the afternoon. Highs 21 to 27. Northwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of snow 50 percent.

**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of snow. Lows 4 below to 2 above zero. North winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

**Thursday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 20 to 26.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 3 below to 3 above zero.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 3 to 9. Chance of snow 30 percent.

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# YNP@Work

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Thursday, February 26, 2015

## .ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Finance Office will be closed TODAY.** Deliveries can be made to the VSO. Thanks!

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**CSS will be lightly staffed TOMORROW.** Call 2062 if you have an issue and leave a message. Thanks.

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Please join us in welcoming **Jim Williams on a one-year detail at the Supply Center.** Jim joins us this week from the North Entrance.

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Hello!

The Centennial is fast approaching and plans are underway to commemorate our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on a national scale. We ask that you share your own hopes and aspirations – your birthday wish – for the National Park Service as it enters into its second century. Your wishes will be compiled with others into a 2-3 minute video, and shared with NPS leadership and hopefully shared with all NPS employees and with the public.

This [link](#) will take you to a questionnaire to share your “Birthday Wish” by March 2.

Thank you for participating.

Sincerely,

Julie Fonseca de Borges (Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park - Seattle Unit / Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial)

David Goldstein (Christiansted National Historic Site)

Michelle Haas (Zion National Park)

Maureen Joseph (National Capital Region)

Jenny Parker (Technical Preservation Services)

Bill Ramsey (Natchez Trace Parkway)

Tom Schaff (Scotts Bluff National Monument)

Miranda Stuart (National Interagency Fire Center)

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There is also an **open house Thursday March 5 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** at the clinic if you want to stop by and say goodbye to Dr. Keel!

-----

**Lane Baker has retired!** Please join Lane and her Yellowstone friends in celebrating her distinguished career with the NPS! April 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Chico Hot Springs. RSVP needed by March 11 via email to Tara Ross and Bonnie Schwartz at [laneparty@gmail.com](mailto:laneparty@gmail.com). Upon your RVSP they will send you specific information on cost, lodging, etc. Questions, call 307-344-2301 or 307-344-2881.

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## **RECENT NEWS RELEASES**

### **Yellowstone's Roads Begin Closing For Spring Plowing**

Yellowstone National Park's winter season is drawing to a close.

Park Roads that serve commercial and non-commercially guided snowmobile and commercial snowcoach travel to iconic Yellowstone locations will be closed in stages beginning Sunday, March 1.

The road from the park's East Entrance over Sylvan Pass and oversnow travel south into the park from Mammoth Hot Springs will end at 9:00 p.m. this Sunday. Closures on other road segments will occur during the next two weeks, with all oversnow travel scheduled to end for the season at 9:00 p.m. Sunday, March 15.

After the roads close to oversnow travel, crews will begin to clear them of snow so they can reopen to automobile travel beginning Friday, April 17, weather permitting.

At Old Faithful, the Old Faithful Lodge, Cabins, and Dining Room will close for the winter season on Sunday March 1. The Bear Den Gift Shop, the Geyser Grill and the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center will remain open through Sunday, March 15.

At Mammoth Hot Springs, the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel, Dining Room, and Gift Shop will close for the season Monday, March 2. The Mammoth Campground, Yellowstone General Store, Post Office, Medical Clinic, the Albright Visitor Center, and self-serve fuel pumps are open all year.

The road from Gardiner, Montana through the park's North Entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs and Cooke City, Montana is open to automobiles all year, weather permitting. Self-serve fuel is available year round at Tower Junction. Updated Yellowstone National Park road information is available 24 hours a day at: <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads.htm> or by calling 307-344-2117.

## **WEATHER**

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

**Last Update:** 236 PM MST WED FEB 25 2015

**Thursday:** Mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers. Highs 19 to 25. Chance of snow 20 percent.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy. Lows 3 below to 3 above zero.

**Friday:** Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of snow. Highs 22 to 28.

**Friday Night:** Mostly cloudy. Chance of snow in the evening...then slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows 3 to 9. Chance of snow 30 percent.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs 18 to 24.

**Saturday Night:** Colder. Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows 6 below to zero.

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