

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 1, 2015



Dan Mahoney receiving his 30-yr service award!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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management in the field, maintain and clean campus facilities, and help carry out the YA mission to inspire, educate and preserve. Success in this position requires excellent hiking skills, the ability to determine risk of a situation, excellent interpersonal skills and quick thinking.

For more information: <https://apply.coolworks.com/ya/job-list.asp>

The Yellowstone Association Institute will host a NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification course at Lamar Buffalo Ranch in November. Required by many outdoor employers and recommended for all outdoor enthusiasts, this course teaches you through classroom sessions and field exercises to prevent and respond to incidents in the backcountry. Upon successful completion of this 80-hour course, you will receive certifications in Wilderness First Responder and CPR. No previous certification is required. For more information: <https://www.yellowstoneassociation.org/program/wilderness-first-responder-2>



FOLLOW US
Into Nature's Classroom!

GRADES K-4
9AM-12 PM

GRADES 4-8
9 AM-3 PM

2015-2016

JR. MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

Explore your own backyard
with the Yellowstone Association!

SEPTEMBER 25 Observations Everywhere!

NOVEMBER 20 Tremendous Trees

DECEMBER 11 The Great Backyard Bird Count

JANUARY 8 Rugged Winter in YNP

FEBRUARY 12 Snow Science

MARCH 4 Wildlife Tracking

APRIL 8 Stream Exploration

MAY 13 Master Naturalist Sharing & Ceremony



CONTACT **RICHELLE RILEY** FOR MORE INFORMATION: rriley@gardiner.org

YELLOWSTONE CO-OP EMPLOYEE RECREATION PROGRAM YCERP.ORG

Exploring Yellowstone: In Search of Waterfalls

Wednesday, September 2nd – 7:00 pm in the Old Faithful Recreation Hall

Presented by Mike Stevens, co-author of “The Guide to Yellowstone Waterfalls and Their Discovery”. Hear the stories behind the multi-year project that led to the book’s creation and Mike’s observance of hundreds of waterfalls, some never before recorded.

RECENT NEWS RELEASES**Yellowstone Opens Lottery for Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program**

Applications will be accepted starting Tuesday, September 1, for those interested in obtaining a permit for a non-commercially guided snowmobile trip into Yellowstone National Park during the 2015-2016 winter season. A permit is required for all non-commercially guided snowmobile groups to enter the park.

Permits will be allocated through a lottery with applications being accepted online at www.recreation.gov through September 30, 2015. Successful lottery applicants will be notified in mid-October. After the conclusion of the lottery, any remaining or cancelled permits will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis through the same webpage starting in November and going through the end of the winter season. Trips can be up to three days in length, and permits cost \$40 per day, with a \$6 application fee.

The Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program was authorized in the 2013 final Winter Use Rule. The program allows one non-commercially guided group per day to enter Yellowstone from each of its four winter entrances. A maximum of five snowmobiles is permitted in each group and all snowmobiles must meet the park's New Best Available Technology (BAT) standard. A list of approved snowmobiles is available at www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/newbatlist.htm.

Permit holders are considered non-commercial guides and must be at least 18 years old by the first day of the trip. All snowmobile operators in a non-commercially guided trip must possess a state-issued driver's license and have successfully completed the free online Yellowstone Snowmobile Education Certification program. Anyone can take the course to learn more about park rules and regulations that help visitors safely enjoy the unique experience of winter in Yellowstone while also protecting park resources. Go to www.provalenslearning.com/yellowstone-snowmobile-education-certificate.

The development of the Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program has had significant stakeholder involvement. In particular, the State of Wyoming, through the Governor's Office and the State Trails Program, has provided critical support for the development and maintenance of the required online snowmobile education course.

Additional details regarding the program, including specific rules and regulations in place for non-commercially guided trips, can be found at www.nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/ngsap.htm or by contacting Alicia Murphy, Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program Coordinator, at alicia_murphy@nps.gov or 307-344-2627.

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Yellowstone Prepares for Fall

Fall comes early in Yellowstone. The sight of steam rising up from the ground in the chilly morning hours, the sound of bugling elk in the crisp evening air, and the feel of fleece against your skin as you dress for a day hike, all herald the end of summer and the beginning of fall in Yellowstone National Park. Soon leaves and grasses will turn lovely shades of yellow and orange. In response to the change in weather and subsequent lower visitation, park facilities and services begin to wind down for the season. Autumn is a magical time of year to visit the park, but be sure to check conditions before you start your trip, pack appropriately, and remember to keep your safety in mind at all times.

Wildlife in the park is getting ready for the change in seasons too. Some of the large animals begin migrating, others stock up on extra food to pack on the pounds before winter, and elk begin their fall rut. In many areas of the park, but especially around Mammoth Hot Springs, the bull elk will soon be vying for the attention of the females by bugling and sparing with other males. Bulls are much more aggressive toward both people and vehicles this time of year and can be a threat to both people and property. Elk damage several vehicles every year,

and on occasion charge and injure visitors. A dedicated group of park staff and volunteers patrol the Mammoth Hot Springs area when elk are present, attempting to keep elk and visitors a safe distance away from each other. But it's important that people do their part as well. Park regulations require that we stay a minimum of 25 yards (the length of two school buses) away from elk, moose, deer, bison, bighorn sheep, and coyotes.

All of Yellowstone is bear country. In the fall, grizzly bears and black bears usually move to higher elevations to feed on whitebark pine seeds, and consume the calories they need to sustain themselves during winter hibernation, but they may be encountered along roads or hiking trails throughout the park. When hiking or backpacking, remember to travel in groups of three or more, make noise on the trail, and be alert for bears. All hikers should always carry bear spray so that it is readily accessible (not inside a pack) and know how to use it. Bear spray is proven to be highly successful at stopping aggressive behavior in bears. It is sold at bookstores, gift shops, outdoor stores, and service stations inside the park, as well as in many stores in the surrounding communities. New this year, bear spray is now available for rent at Canyon Village in a kiosk near the Canyon Visitor Education Center through late September.

Park regulations require people to stay a minimum of 100 yards (the length of a football field) away from bears and wolves at all times. If you see a bear along the road, move off the road and park on the shoulder or in a pullout and stay in your vehicle to watch the bear. Use your binoculars, telescope, or telephoto lens to get a closer look at the bear rather than approaching the bear.

In addition to the change in animal behavior, fall also brings changes in the weather and you should come prepared for a wide range of conditions. Days gradually get shorter and temperatures drop rapidly once the sun goes down, often falling below freezing overnight. At this time of year, it's a good idea to pack plenty of layers, including insulating items, and both sun and rain protection. Stop at a visitor center or ranger station for the latest updates on trail conditions and park regulations, and remember that you must obtain overnight backcountry permits before setting out to backpack.

All roads leading to the park and in the park are currently open. While brief construction delays are possible on the section of road between Norris Junction and Mammoth Hot Springs, nightly closures are no longer in effect. Updated road information is available 24 hours a day at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads.htm or by phone at 307-344-2117. As campgrounds and lodges begin to close for the season, those remaining open tend to fill up early. The current status of campgrounds is available at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/campgrounds.htm.

Most park visitor services remain open through September; however, some facilities close for the season starting Monday, August 31. Details are available in the park newspaper handed out at entrance stations, from the staff at visitor centers and information stations in and near the park, or online at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/oed_locale.htm.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 953 AM MDT TUE SEP 1 2015

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny late in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 66 to 74. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 43 to 49. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Wednesday: Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 65 to 73. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Lows 41 to 47. South winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Slight chance of dry thunderstorms in the afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the afternoon. Highs 62 to 68. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers after midnight. Lows 35 to 41.

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Contribute to the park's social media!

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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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness_Incentive_Program_Current](#). 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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The second Groundwork USA group here last week!

Groundwork USA unique partnership with NPS and EPA focus on brown field remediation and urban greening projects. Groundwork USA spend most of their time on restoration projects and they travel to Yellowstone for a week to work with YCC staff on broader conservation projects. There are 41 members from Groundwork USA at YCC working throughout the Park on projects. These project include working a new Flexi-pavement project at Old Faithful, installing bear boxes at Norris, making tent pads at Norris, trail work, putting in bumper logs at Slough Creek, removing invasive weeds and other projects. They come from 6 different Trusts: Washington DC, Richmond VA, Dona Ana NM, Somerville MA, Elizabeth NJ, Yonkers NY, Lawrence MA, Denver CO, and Newburgh NY.

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IN THE NEWS**Mother keeps son's memory alive with suicide prevention effort**

1 hour ago • By [Zach Benoit](#)

As part of her pledge to boost mental health awareness and suicide prevention efforts after her son took his own life in 2011, Pam Faerber will also spread one of his core beliefs when the [Big Bear Stampede](#) is held in Gardiner later this month.

“Our son was an adventurous athlete,” she said. “He worked with kids and challenged them to do things they didn’t think they could do. One of the things he always said was, ‘Great things can be accomplished by passionately pursuing your dreams.’”

The trail race, scheduled for Sept. 12, features 8K and 5K trail runs, a 5K walk and a kids run, all in the shadow of Yellowstone National Park near Gardiner. In addition, it will feature mental health and suicide prevention resources, with proceeds going toward prevention and awareness in Park County.

Faerber wants it to be an event where people can have a good time and learn about suicide and depression along the way.

“It’s really just a fun day, and it’s very uplifting,” she said. “If you just want a physical challenge, this is the place to do it. If you want to help create awareness for depression, this is the place to do it. If you want to come and just share your own battle, this is the place to do it.”

Her son, Geoffrey Faerber, took his own life in 2011 at the age of 36 after battling depression for more than 15 years.

He left behind a wife and two sons and owned the Flying Pig Adventure Co. in Gardiner.

Faerber said that she’s learned so much new information about depression and suicide over the years, she now wants to prevent other families from going through the same trauma.

“We have resources, things I wish I’d had as tools in my hands,” she said. “At one point, my son said to me, ‘Mom, you have no idea what it feels like to wake up each morning and think you are supposed to kill yourself.’”

Champion trail runner Nikki Kimball, of Bozeman, will be on hand to talk about depression awareness and hand out awards. Kimball was a member of 12 U.S. national teams, is a three-time winner of the North American and U.S. Track and Field associations’ Ultrarunner of the Year, has won a World Cup team gold medal and is the women’s course record holder at the Bridger Ridge Run.

The September races are just part of a larger effort through the Big Bear Stampede, a registered nonprofit, to advocate for mental health and suicide prevention awareness and resources.

Faerber said that her son's death shocked family and the community where he lived and doesn't want anybody else to feel shame about mental illness or how a loved one died.

"We're trying to make it OK to talk about depression, giving out tools and resources," she said. "We need to get people aware that depression is a real illness. Don't be ashamed of it, don't run away from it."

At twice the national average, Montana has the highest suicide rate in the nation, and Park County's rate is three times the national average.

With that in mind, Big Bear Stampede has helped, among other things, to bring counselors to Park County, trained about 50 people in the Gardiner area on responding to related issues and put together numerous resources.

Faerber said she'd eventually like to see a time when "true medical diagnostic tools" can identify clinical depression an efficient way

"A lot of people who've faced severe depression, they don't consider themselves mentally ill," she said. "It took me a year to admit to myself that my son was mentally ill. We've got to change how we diagnose it and how we treat it."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/mother-keeps-son-s-memory-alive-with-suicide-prevention-effort/article_5c1e4679-a157-51cb-abee-e652837e82cf.html#ixzz3kangeccj

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Thursday: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 63 to 69. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows 36 to 42. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 59 to 65. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows 37 to 43. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

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Old Faithful Interpretive Supervisor Annie Carlson got interviewed for a Disney-In-Parks Documentary on August 11th/12th. (photo by Landon Rick)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIFC External Affairs Social Media gurus would like to feature as many firefighters as possible in the coming weeks on NIFC's social media sites, in appreciation for all of their hard work. We've done a great job featuring other firefighters/international assistance, etc., but we'd like to focus on our local agency firefighters too. They need some props! (FYI: NIFC's social media team has reached over 349,000 people *in the last week*.)

What: -pictures of firefighters working fire lines, etc. with captions accompanying the pictures, for example, "Here's a pic of John Smith digging line on the Catpower fire." Please let us know who took the picture, so we can ensure he/she receives credit for the photo

Why: we want to feature, acknowledge, and give props to all of the hardworking firefighters!

Who: please send photos, captions and photo credits to either Sheri Ascherfeld: sascherf@blm.gov or Jennifer Smith: j81smith@blm.gov

Questions: contact Sheri Ascherfeld 208-387-5144 or Jennifer Smith 208-387-5456.

Thanks and have a safe fire season!

Hello Mammoth employees. We have a composting bin now available to employees. It is located at the Mammoth Community Center parking lot. It is large, green, and labeled compost. The solid waste division will be monitoring the use of this composting bin through the month of September. If enough compostable items are collected, the bin will stay until October.

All compostable items must be in a bag. Compostable bags are preferred and are available at the Supply Center free of charge. These bags are to be used only for the composting bin. Please take no more than five bags at a time. Regular plastic bags are also accepted in the composting bins.

Please see the list below for acceptable items:

Accepted in the bin	NOT accepted
food scraps	NO pet waste
paper towels	NO cardboard
kleenex	NO clothing items
grass clippings	NO yard waste/weeds
coffee filters	NO chunks of wood
egg shells	NO cooking oil/grease
pet hair	NO ash
paper	NO metal
sawdust	NO glass

 **Little People's Learning Center**, located in Mammoth, is **looking for a part-time teacher** who shares our passion for the education of young children. Experience and education within the field of education (or related field) is ideal however we are willing to train the right person. Please give Danielle Deering a call at 307-344-9011 and/or email your resume to littlepeoples330@gmail.com. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Come join **Yellowstone General Stores** for **PARK PARTNER DAY!**
On September 11 you can get 30% off merchandise (excludes grocery, alcohol, and tobacco)
Must present company ID to be eligible

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Yellowstone Welcomes 4th Grade Students Through Every Kid In a Park Initiative

New National Program Encourages Families and Classes to Visit National Parks

Yellowstone National Park invites all 4th grade students to visit the park for free as part of the White House's new Every Kid in a Park program. Starting yesterday, September 1, 4th grade students can now go to www.everykidinapark.gov to complete an activity and obtain a free annual entry pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks.

"During the upcoming National Park Service's centennial celebration, we want more people to get to know Yellowstone, America's first national park, so we're offering a special invitation to fourth graders and their families to discover everything that this fantastic park offers," said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk. "We hope these free passes will introduce 4th graders, their classes, and their families to many of our national treasures, including Yellowstone. Kids of all ages need places where they can run and play, explore and learn."

To receive their free pass for national parks, fourth graders can visit the [Every Kid in a Park website](#) and play a game to access their special Every Kid in a Park pass. The kids and their families can then use this pass for free entry into national parks and other federal public lands and waters across the country through August 31, 2016. The website also includes fun and engaging learning activities aligned to educational standards, trip planning tools, safety and packing tips and other important and helpful information for educators and parents.

In addition to providing every fourth grader in America a free entry pass for national parks and federal public lands and waters, 4th grade educators, youth group leaders and their students across the country will also participate in the initiative through field trips and other learning experiences. “Expedition Yellowstone” is a multi-day curriculum-based residential program offered during the school year for 4th through 8th grade students. This popular program has been teaching students about the natural and cultural history of Yellowstone for nearly 30 years. Sessions are four or five days in length, with an emphasis on learning through direct experience in the outdoors. More information is available at www.nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/expeditionyell.htm.

Yellowstone National Park also offers a variety of programs that 4th graders and their families can enjoy at any time of year. The Yellowstone Junior Ranger program is a fun way for kids (and adults!) to learn about the park by attending a ranger-led program, hiking on a park trail or boardwalk, and completing an activity booklet available at park visitor centers. Kids are sworn in as Junior Rangers, and receive a patch for their hard work. More information is available at www.nps.gov/yell/learn/kidsyouth/beajuniorranger.htm. Other trip ideas for visiting Yellowstone with kids in both winter and summer are available on a brand new page on the park website, www.nps.gov/yell/learn/kidsyouth/every-kid-in-a-park.htm.

Not everyone can schedule a trip to Yellowstone to help celebrate the centennial of the NPS, so the park also offers fun and educational activities on its website to help kids and their families or classes learn about the plants, animals, and geothermal features of Yellowstone from the comfort of their own home or classroom. A scavenger hunt, wildlife Olympics, coloring pages, and the equation for predicting Old Faithful’s next eruption are all found at www.nps.gov/yell/learn/kidsyouth/parkfun.htm.

The goal of the Every Kid in a Park program is to connect 4th graders with the great outdoors and inspire them to become future environmental stewards, ready to preserve and protect national parks and other public lands for years to come. The program is an important part of the National Park Service’s centennial celebration in 2016, which encourages everyone to Find Your Park.

Every Kid in a Park is a nationwide effort launched by President Obama and supported by eight federal agencies including the National Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Education, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

IN THE NEWS

East Entrance closed by dud bomb finding

Decades-old artillery shell used for avalanche control discovered by roadside

Posted: Wednesday, September 2, 2015 4:30 am

[East Entrance closed by dud bomb finding](#) By Mike Koshmrl

A Yellowstone National Park maintenance man on a routine check for roadside garbage last week happened into an unexploded artillery round that was originally used to penetrate armored vehicles during the Korean War.

The man was on Highway 14/16/20 along Sylvan Pass on Friday afternoon retrieving an ordinary piece of trash when he saw the explosive.

The worker reported his find at 3:30 p.m., and soon after rangers closed the East Entrance to traffic.

“He noticed a hubcap lying on the shoulder, and so he pulled over to pick up the hubcap and found this large piece of artillery laying down in the road about 10 or 12 feet down from the ditch,” Yellowstone spokeswoman Julena Campbell said. “He recognized it, fortunately, and called it in.”

The decades-old bomb was detritus not from warfare but from avalanche mitigation shelling that takes place each winter to keep Sylvan Pass safe for snow coaches and snowmobiles headed to and from Cody.

“That whole slope is closed everywhere for this very reason,” Campbell said. “It was within that closed area, and coincidentally within 50 yards of one of the signs.”

The signs read: “Explosives Keep Out: Do not disturb or touch. It can explode.”

The artillery shell found Friday was from a 75-millimeter recoilless rifle, which was used to clear Sylvan Pass’s 20 avalanche chutes from 1973 to 1996.

That means that the dud was deposited roughly 20 to 40 years ago. Campbell said there’s no saying for certain what brought the bomb into view, but its travel downslope may have been connected to recent rains.

Crews trained to detonate unexploded ordnance were called in from the Malmstrom Air Force Base to deal with the shell. Until the Malmstrom team arrived in a helicopter — for four and a half hours — Yellowstone’s East Entrance remained closed.

“They sent down three of their technicians and, for a lack of a better term, blew it up,” Campbell said.

To accomplish the feat, the Malmstrom specialists wrapped the rusted round in C-4, a malleable type of plastic explosive, Campbell said. They then got out of the line of sight and detonated the bomb with a remote trigger, she said.

By around 8 p.m., the operation was complete, and Yellowstone’s East Entrance was open again to traffic.

Last week’s discovery was the first find in a decade by someone who was not specifically looking for the bombs.

To date there have been no accidents associated with unexploded artillery shells in Yellowstone, but a visitor driving along the East Entrance Road once picked up a dud round and transported it to the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center, according to a 2007 report Yellowstone commissioned.

In a summer where more than one person has been gored by bison while taking “selfies,” Campbell urged visitors to refrain from picking up dud bombs.

“If they see something that might be connected to [avalanche shelling], certainly report it to park dispatch,” she said. “Leave it in place. Do not pick it up.”

Estimates of the number of unexploded artillery shells on Sylvan Pass vary, but a 2013 environmental planning document puts the tally at 300.

The 75-millimeter recoilless rifles were more dud-prone, and it’s estimated they left between 15 and 18 unexploded bombs behind per season during the tail end of the era, the 2007 report says.

In 1997 Yellowstone switched over to a 105-millimeter Howitzer, which fires shells that more reliably blow up.

In the winter of 2013-14 there were three howitzer shells that failed to explode. Last winter there was a single dud reported out of 71 rounds fired, Campbell said.

When a dud is fired, GPS coordinates are taken and Yellowstone rangers try to locate the bombs the following summer season. But the shells imbed in the talus and move downhill, and have proven difficult to find.

Only about a quarter of the 27 dud howitzers shells fired off since 1997 have been recovered and detonated.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 838 AM MDT THU SEP 3 2015

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 63 to 69. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers after midnight. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds in the evening. Lows 37 to 43. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the morning...then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 61 to 67. South winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows 37 to 43. South winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers in the morning... Then scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 57 to 63. South winds around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Saturday Night: Colder. Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers... Possibly mixed with snow showers after midnight. Lows 27 to 33. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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. 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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness_Incentive_Program_Current](#). 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.

Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

Access the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Sign up by pasting this link into your internet browser: <https://newslettersignup.mayoclinic.com/> and following the subscription instructions. There are some great topics for weekly tailgate safety/wellness sessions.

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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!

For Mammoth Community Center (MCC) information and to book your public, private or work events contact us at: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NIFC External Affairs Social Media gurus would like to feature as many firefighters as possible in the coming weeks on NIFC's social media sites, in appreciation for all of their hard work. We've done a great job featuring other firefighters/international assistance, etc., but we'd like to focus on our local agency firefighters too. They need some props! (FYI: NIFC's social media team has reached over 349,000 people *in the last week*.)

What: -pictures of firefighters working fire lines, etc. with captions accompanying the pictures, for example, "Here's a pic of John Smith digging line on the Catpower fire." Please let us know who took the picture, so we can ensure he/she receives credit for the photo

Why: we want to feature, acknowledge, and give props to all of the hardworking firefighters!

Who: please send photos, captions and photo credits to either Sheri Ascherfeld: sascherf@blm.gov or Jennifer Smith: j81smith@blm.gov

Questions: contact Sheri Ascherfeld 208-387-5144 or Jennifer Smith 208-387-5456.

Thanks and have a safe fire season!

Hello Mammoth employees. We have a composting bin now available to employees. It is located at the Mammoth Community Center parking lot. It is large, green, and labeled compost. The solid waste division will be monitoring the use of this composting bin through the month of September. If enough compostable items are collected, the bin will stay until October.

All compostable items must be in a bag. Compostable bags are preferred and are available at the Supply Center free of charge. These bags are to be used only for the composting bin. Please take no more than five bags at a time. Regular plastic bags are also accepted in the composting bins.

Please see the list below for acceptable items:

Accepted in the bin	NOT accepted
food scraps	NO pet waste
paper towels	NO cardboard
kleenex	NO clothing items
grass clippings	NO yard waste/weeds
coffee filters	NO chunks of wood
egg shells	NO cooking oil/grease
pet hair	NO ash
paper	NO metal
sawdust	NO glass

The Isa Lake Bridge Project is complete and will no longer have traffic delays related to construction.



Little People's Learning Center, located in Mammoth, is **looking for a part-time teacher** who shares our passion for the education of young children. Experience and education within the field of education (or related field) is ideal however we are willing to train the right person. Please give Danielle Deering a call at 307-344-9011 and/or email your resume to littlepeoples330@gmail.com. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Come join **Yellowstone General Stores** for **PARK PARTNER DAY!**
On September 11 you can get 30% off merchandise (excludes grocery, alcohol, and tobacco)
Must present company ID to be eligible

The Gardiner School and the Yellowstone Association are offering the Jr. Master Naturalist Program for students K-8th during the 2015-2016 school year. Students will meet one Friday a month to explore different Yellowstone topics while working towards receiving their Jr. Master Naturalist certificate. From snow science to macroinvertebrates, becoming a Jr. Master Naturalist is all about gaining curiosity about the natural world and having the passion to share it with others! For more information contact Richelle Riley at rriley@gardiner.org

The Yellowstone Association is seeking **Volunteer Program Assistants** for this winter season! This volunteer will support YA Institute Field Seminars which are based at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch field campus. **Program Assistants** welcome and host students, orient them to the Yellowstone Association and the facility, assist instructors in logistical aspects of courses, drive the 14-passenger mini-bus for all field trips, assist in risk management in the field, maintain and clean campus facilities, and help carry out the YA mission to inspire, educate and preserve. Success in this position requires excellent hiking skills, the ability to determine risk of a situation, excellent interpersonal skills and quick thinking.
For more information: <https://apply.coolworks.com/ya/job-list.asp>

The Yellowstone Association Institute will host a NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification course at Lamar Buffalo Ranch in November. Required by many outdoor employers and recommended for all outdoor enthusiasts, this course teaches you through classroom sessions and field exercises to prevent and respond to incidents in the backcountry. Upon successful completion of this 80-hour course, you will receive certifications in Wilderness First Responder and CPR. No previous certification is required. For more information: <https://www.yellowstoneassociation.org/program/wilderness-first-responder-2>

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone ups prices of private snowmobile trips
23 hours ago • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — People who want to ride a snowmobile into Yellowstone National Park for more than one day without a guide this winter will have to pay more.

Last winter, it cost a flat \$40 for a one- to three-day permit that would allow private snowmobiles to travel in groups of up to five sleds and 10 people. This year the same trip will cost \$40 a day, plus the cost of admission into the world's first national park.

A working group that's helping to craft a management plan for the park's winter-use regulations pushed for the change, said Alicia Murphy, coordinator of Yellowstone's noncommercial guided snowmobile access program.

"They were concerned that (snowmobilers) were reserving multiday trips and not actually using them, because there was no incentive to release those dates," Murphy said.

The park issues one permit per day for each of its four entrances.

People paying more are less likely to buy and not use multiday permits, Murphy said.

Yellowstone's private snowmobiling program also was costing more than it was generating, another factor that led to the change.

"The program is based on the final rule that was published in the Federal Register that is supposed to be cost-recoverable," Murphy said.

Applications for unguided snowmobiling permits are being accepted through Sept. 30. Last year there was lots of competition for the permits, park officials reported. Demand was at its peak on Valentine's Day weekend.

The park received 374 applications last year for unguided permits; 22 percent were successful, Murphy said.

"Probably more important than the lottery is the first-come, first-served permits that are becoming available after Nov. 3," she said. "Any permits that aren't allocated through the lottery are available first-come, first-served. I know quite a few people personally that were not successful in the lottery and then picked up permits that way."

Another change is a tighter restriction on "best-available technology" standards that govern noise and emissions.

Beginning this winter, Murphy said, snowmobiles that enter the park must be no louder than 73 decibels. They must emit no more than 15 grams of hydrocarbons or 120 grams of carbon monoxide per kilowatt-hour.

Jack Welch, a longtime Yellowstone snowmobiling advocate, said that options will be few in terms of models that fit the higher standard.

Only one major snowmobile manufacturer makes a sled that meets the standard, although two others are working on new models, said Welch, who works for the Blue Ribbon Coalition.

"The only people that would own (best-available technology) machines probably don't live here because they are designed for trail riding at lower altitudes — not Wyoming, Colorado or Montana," he said.

Welch said he thinks Yellowstone has a "good program," but he's also pushing for more unguided snowmobiling permits.

"Ultimately we would like this program to grow," he said. "Right now it's one (trip) from each gate each day."

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-ups-prices-of-private-snowmobile-trips/article_0c3351dc-940a-5853-a150-aa73114514b8.html#ixzz3lABU8JFA

A Place of Change -- The new spring at Mammoth, in context

By Michael Wright Sep 6, 2015

http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/yellowstone_national_park/a-place-of-change---the-new-spring/article_48b0be60-af88-5e2f-b670-8f7e98ad7f18.html



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Last April, Yellowstone National Park officials noticed a new spring on Upper Terrace Drive near a popular parking lot that overlooks a white and gray travertine plateau sloping down to the traffic jam in Mammoth, Wyoming.

Hot water bubbled from the spring, or vent, as park geologists call them. Calcium carbonate deposits and microbial activity introduced by the water reshaped and recolored a small mound. A berm was built to keep the water off the pavement. In the summer, the park planned to build a more permanent solution.

It wasn't strange. Springs at Mammoth are always changing. Vents start and stop at will. Visitors see different versions of the terraces every year. That's nothing new, and no, a new spring doesn't mean the Yellowstone volcano is going to erupt any time soon.

But this particular vent might be a little more complicated.

In mid-July, water was coming from the edge of the pavement, signaling the new spring was bigger than originally thought. Infrared pictures showed heat under the pavement. Park officials drilled two holes in the asphalt, and, sure enough, hot water bubbled out.

Those signals are what makes this vent more complex. All signs point to a thermal feature trapped under asphalt.

"The unusual thing about this is we have the road constraining this thermal evolution and the thermal evolution is impacting the road," said Hank Heasler, one of the park's two geologists.

The road — immensely popular with Yellowstone visitors — was closed for five days as officials tried to figure out just what was happening underground. Now, concrete barriers fence off the corner where the holes were drilled and long streaks on the parking lot mark where the water went before it was diverted.

None of this should arouse alarm. People and cars are allowed back there now. Each day they lean over the concrete barriers and marvel at the spring. Most know about Yellowstone's thermal activity and they know it changes.

And whenever it does change, park managers respond. Boardwalks are moved, areas are closed, sometimes even roads are moved. This new spring is yet another natural wonder forcing their hand.

Unless it stops, which has happened before.

The vast underground system that provides the park's natural crowd-pleasers does what it wants.

On a recent sunny day in Mammoth, Heasler and Cheryl Jaworowski — the park's geologists — strolled the boardwalks and Upper Terrace Drive, talking about the importance of the park's geothermal features. Without them, Heasler said, Yellowstone might not even be a national park.

"Say you come here in 1872 or 1870, and it takes you a couple of weeks to get here and you've got to come here on a horse," Heasler said. "What's going to impress you about this area?"

Animals? Well, those were likely more widespread then. And people used them for food more often than [selfies](#).

The beauty? Sure, the area is gorgeous and remote, with the mountains and lakes and rivers.

But parts of Montana and the neighboring states had that too. So what's so special about this Yellowstone place?

"All the thermal features. The hot springs, mud pots, geysers and steam bins," Heasler said.



A new thermal feature was discovered in April atop the mound seen here on Aug. 24. Michael Wright/Chronicle

That's also what brought these two geologists to the park.

Heasler used to teach at the University of Wyoming, Jaworowski at Laramie Community College. The pair have been at the park a little over a decade and they are working on a monitoring system gathering baseline data that will help them and others better understand how the system changes over time.

That includes both what happens above ground — Jaworowski's specialty — and what happens underneath, Heasler's realm.

They wear the park uniform and flat-billed straw hat with smiles and happily accept the certain level of celebrity that comes with it. Flurries of visitor questions, posing for photos now and then, kind of like wearing a Mickey Mouse costume at Disneyland.

But when not walking around in uniform, they are learning all they can about the geothermal features.

Heasler said more than 13,000 different features — including geysers, hot springs and mud pots — have been mapped in the park. About 26 square miles of visible thermal features exist in the park's 9,000 square miles.

Some are like the terraces at Mammoth or Old Faithful — accessible and popular, the stuff postcards are made of. Others hide in the backcountry, cherished by hikers who know where to look.

But nobody sees what's really driving the system. Underground, the thermal area is much larger than what's visible, and it's always moving.

"The thermal system is approaching park-wide," Heasler said.

Because of the Yellowstone volcano, water and high temperatures occur at very shallow depths throughout the park. That's what makes the thermal features possible, and what makes a fraction of the whole system come to the surface is location.

"That's where the geology, the faults and fractures allow the heat and water to come to the surface and be expressed," Jaworowski said.

Along those fault lines are where places like Old Faithful and Mammoth's terraces form. That's also where people want to go, so park designers made roads to take the hordes there and built boardwalks and trails taking them closer.

At Mammoth, the elaborate boardwalk system treads lightly on the white-gray slope formed by deposits from the calcium-carbonate rich water, known as travertine. Underneath that are caves and caverns, not solid rock.

But, as Heasler and Jaworowski know well, the system isn't stagnant. Old travertine marks parts of the more average-looking hillsides, indicating where the springs used to be. Because of that, they don't really know how new the "new" spring is.

Heasler said it's close to another sporadically flowing vent, listed on some maps as "Baby Spring." That one, he said, is known to have had water bubbling out in the 1930s and again in the 1960s, but has disappeared. This one could be an extension of it, but they aren't sure.



Yellowstone National Park geologist Hank Heasler measures the temperature of water bubbling out of a new thermal feature on Upper Terrace Drive at Mammoth Hot Springs. The water measured 155 degrees Fahrenheit. Michael Wright/Chronicle

That sort of change sometimes conflicts with the man-made infrastructure in the park. For example, hot water has engulfed sections of boardwalk at Mammoth from time to time, forcing park-hired carpenters to reroute.

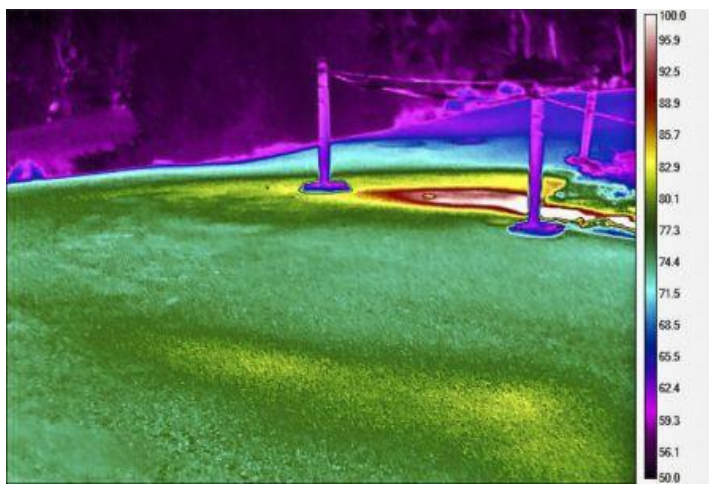
“If you were here 10 years ago, you wouldn’t recognize the current boardwalk system,” Heasler said.

But now, what’s happening above the boardwalks, near the parking lot on the north side of Upper Terrace Drive, is different from just moving some lumber.

The original vent noticed in April is on a mound about 10 feet from the parking lot. The water moves downhill and takes a left turn, forced by the berm and one small log. About 15 gallons a minute rises from one of the holes drilled by the park officials, Heasler said, heading down a path sidelined by the parking lot’s edge and the mound’s slope. The two streams meet, and an orange track shows where it flows into a sinkhole.

But, as can be seen in the infrared picture and is hinted at by the man-made hole, that’s not the whole story.

“Right now, we don’t know what the thermal system wants to do because we have a cap of asphalt,” Heasler said.



A view of the new thermal feature is seen through an infrared camera at the entrance of the parking lot at Upper Terrace Drive at Mammoth Hot Springs. The white spot indicates the hottest temperature. Photo Courtesy of Yellowstone National Park

The question park decision makers are faced with is balancing the needs of park visitors with the needs of the natural world.

There are a number of options. The road could be re-routed or become a pedestrian-only trail. The road could become totally off-limits, or they could do nothing.

Park superintendent Dan Wenk said that in cases when the park is asked to balance the needs of visitors and the natural world, they likely err more on the side of the natural world.

But, for this particular feature, Wenk said it’s way too early to know what will happen.

“We’re not exactly at that decision-making point yet,” he said. “What we’re going to do first is we have to make some kind of determination if this is a short-term issue or a long-term issue.”

What he means is they must consider the possibility that the vent could stop flowing any day. That has happened before, Wenk notes. He recalled a couple of different instances in the Mammoth area where a spring was near a road — not necessarily on the terraces — and by the time they were ready to make plans to manage it, the flow stopped.

“Maybe by the time we have that conversation, it’s a moot point,” Wenk said, though cautiously. He recognized the system could very easily go the other way too, like taking over the road.

He said his staff would consult with the geologists this fall and look for a way to move forward.

Either way, the two geologists are giddy about what they can learn from the new spring. Jaworowski is curious how it connects to nearby Cupid Spring, an outflow just across the road that she said is the most active spot she’s seen.

“I think it’s amazing and it makes me curious about the new hydrothermal activity we’re going to see across the road and what connection there might be,” she said.

That’s what it’s all about, she said. Learning, applying what she knows as she and Heasler spend their days in the nation’s first national park, keeping an eye on a massive thermal system only interested in itself.

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 653 AM MDT TUE SEP 8 2015

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 55 to 61. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the late morning and afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy until early morning then clearing. Lows 31 to 37. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny. Highs 60 to 66. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the morning becoming west around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 39. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 63 to 69.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 39.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Thursday, September 10, 2015



Thirty-seven new citizens were sworn in with the Oath of Allegiance at the naturalization ceremony at the base of the terraces yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Isa Lake Bridge Project is complete and will no longer have traffic delays related to construction.

Hello Mammoth employees. We have a composting bin now available to employees. It is located at the Mammoth Community Center parking lot. It is large, green, and labeled compost. The solid waste division will be monitoring the use of this composting bin through the month of September. If enough compostable items are collected, the bin will stay until October.

All compostable items must be in a bag. Compostable bags are preferred and are available at the Supply Center free of charge. These bags are to be used only for the composting bin. Please take no more than five bags at a time. Regular plastic bags are also accepted in the composting bins.

Please see the list below for acceptable items:

Accepted in the bin	NOT accepted
food scraps	NO pet waste
paper towels	NO cardboard
kleenex	NO clothing items
grass clippings	NO yard waste/weeds
coffee filters	NO chunks of wood
egg shells	NO cooking oil/grease
pet hair	NO ash
paper	NO metal
sawdust	NO glass

PLASTIC RECYCLING NOTES

- As of **October 1**, we are no longer able to recycle plastic film, i.e. grocery bags, baggies, saran wrap, etc. Some of you have already noticed this on the bin signs. When this type of plastic is found in the plastic recycle bins it will be removed and sent to the landfill, therefore, you are encouraged to use reusable shopping bags.
- A reminder: when given the choice between purchasing something in plastic, glass, or aluminum - choose aluminum for recyclability.

OTHER RECYCLE NOTES

In an attempt to keep paper from escaping, when being dumped from the bin behind the Administration Building, we have set up a large multi-unit bin which will be trucked directly from the site rather than dumped into the truck to be hauled.



Little People's Learning Center, located in Mammoth, **is looking for a part-time teacher** who shares our passion for the education of young children. Experience and education within the field of education (or related field) is ideal however we are willing to train the right person. Please give Danielle Deering a call at 307-344-9011 and/or email your resume to littlepeoples330@gmail.com.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Come join **Yellowstone General Stores** for **PARK PARTNER DAY!**

On **September 11** you can get 30% off merchandise (excludes grocery, alcohol, and tobacco)

Must present company ID to be eligible

The Gardiner School and the Yellowstone Association are offering the Jr. Master Naturalist Program for students K-8th during the 2015-2016 school year. Students will meet one Friday a month to explore different Yellowstone topics while working towards receiving their Jr. Master Naturalist certificate. From snow science to macroinvertebrates, becoming a Jr. Master Naturalist is all about gaining curiosity about the natural world and having the passion to share it with others! For more information contact Richelle Riley at rriley@gardiner.org

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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 653 AM MDT THU SEP 10 2015

Today: Mostly sunny. Highs 63 to 69.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 39.

Friday: Sunny. Highs 65 to 71.

Friday Night: Clear. Lows 36 to 42.

Saturday: Sunny. Highs 68 to 74.

Saturday Night: Clear. Lows 36 to 42.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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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. 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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness_Incentive_Program_Current](#). 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.

Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

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Yellowstone Safety Recognition Program (SRP)

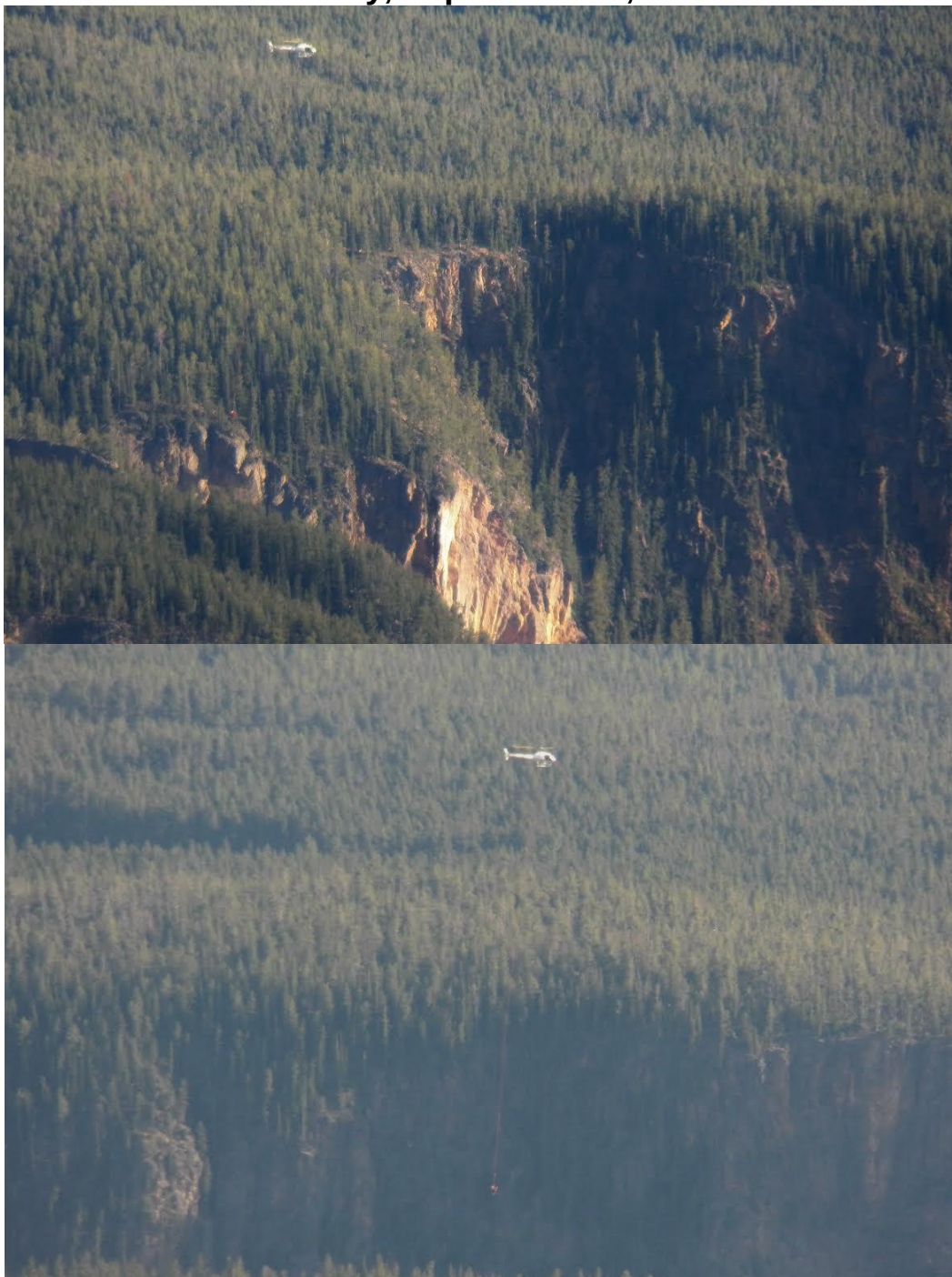
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For Mammoth Community Center (MCC) information and to book your public, private or work events contact us at: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 15, 2015



Pictures from the Washburn Lookout, Ed Stark, of the short-haul of two cliffed out young men from 7 mile hole area. The park contracted helicopter piloted by Matt Goertz of Trans Aero Helicopters and Wendy Hafer on the rope.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After two years of solving many collection issues and improving the park's museum records, **Brandon Sexton is leaving Yellowstone** to become curator at Pipe Spring National Monument! Please join us in the YCR Conference Room on Thursday, 9/17, at 3:00 PM for cake and goodies, and to wish Brandon well!

We will be **reconstructing boardwalk at Mud Volcano**. The area that will be closed is around Sour Lake and Black Dragon's Caldron. This boardwalk is in POOR SHAPE and located in the South - West corner of basin. Work will begin with tear out of the spur to Black Dragon's (Mon. 9/14/15) and will eventually close the main-loop trail on Wed. 9/16/15. The trail will remain open to Sizzling Basin and Grizzly Fumurole from either side - BUT NO LOOP TRAIL will be available. We will place barricades and '**closed ahead**' signs to forewarn visitors. Thank you for your assistance.



Hayden Valley Hawkwatch

Sunday, September 20

9 AM at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center 45-minute presentation on raptor identification.

11 AM – 2 PM Meet at the turnout 6.6 mi. south of Canyon Junction (9 mi. north of Fishing Bridge Junction). Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and a lawn chair for comfortable viewing of raptors.

For more information, please call Katy Duffy at 307-699-2696.

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Little People's Learning Center, located in Mammoth, is **looking for a part-time teacher** who shares our passion for the education of young children. Experience and education within the field of education (or related field) is ideal however we are willing to train the right person. Please give Danielle Deering a call at 307-344-9011 and/or email your resume to littlepeoples330@gmail.com. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of AUGUST! Names were drawn from among the employees who participated and met the program goal of **500 points per month**. The following employees will receive an award for their participation:

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 Brenna Cassidy-YCR
 Rafael Velazquez-REYP
 Jen Morey-RVP
 Todd Opperman-RVP



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

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National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 19
8:00 a.m.
BLM Cody Field Office: 1002 Blackburn Street
Bring: Work gloves, layers, water, lunch

Take part

in improving pronghorn habitat in the Bighorn Basin.

Connect to the wildlife, plants, and special resources found on public lands near your home.

Join us to remove net-wire fence and install smooth-wire fencing on YU Bench to enhance wildlife migration.



Participants *receive* a free pass to a public lands site and a t-shirt.

Mammoth Community Center (MCC) is gearing up for Fall events to include our Halloween Carnival, Ski Swap and Warren Miller Movie. With that said, we are looking for volunteers to help with the events but also want to encourage anyone interested to join our Board of Directors. Time commitment for board members includes a monthly meeting and time planning events. Two positions open in the near future but always need folks to volunteer their time for events. Remember, the MCC is your community center. If you would like to hold events that are open to the public no fees are required. Feel free to host a community potluck on your own or simply use the facility for sports, library, movie night, etc. Join our fitness center for a mere \$10/month or \$50/6months Please ask a board member if interested/questions or email us @ mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com and visit our website @ mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com.

YELLOWSTONE CO-OP EMPLOYEE RECREATION PROGRAM YCERP.ORG

Summer Photo Contest Results

Three hundred employees voted to determine their favorite photos from the summer of 2015. This year's photographs were exceptional. Congratulations to all participants and to the winning photographers. Results can be viewed at ycerp.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR



September 18th 7:00 pm
October 5th 6:00 pm

OF Rec Hall
MHS Conference Room

Join Ricky Harney as he uses landscape, people, and wildlife images to illustrate his personal journey of becoming a professional photographer.



Yellowstone Staff T-shirts and Hoodies Half Off

Stop by a recreation office to purchase a \$9 t-shirt or hoody for \$17.50 while supplies last. Office hours are posted on activity calendars and on our website.



RECENT NEWS RELEASE

Public Invited to Volunteer for National Public Lands Day Projects in Yellowstone

Entrance fee waived for all visitors Saturday, September 26

As part of National Public Lands Day, the largest single day volunteer effort for public lands, Yellowstone National Park is seeking volunteers for two work projects that will occur in the Lamar Valley on Saturday, September 26. The National Park Service will also waive park entrance fees in honor of National Public Lands Day.

Volunteers will participate in either trail restoration work on the Specimen Ridge Trail located near Lamar Valley or staining picnic tables and signs at various locations. Work will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and includes obliterating social trails, planting native vegetation, and painting/staining picnic tables and other structures. The work is strenuous, requiring the use shovels, picks and other hand tools, lifting rocks and bags of rock, and working at high altitudes and in variable weather conditions.

Space is limited to 30 people and volunteers should register by September 21. To register, please email your name, phone numbers, and choice of project to YELL_Volunteer_Office@nps.gov or call 307-344-2729 and leave a voice mail with your name and phone number.

Drinks and snacks will be provided. All volunteers should bring lunch, water, sunscreen, and sturdy footwear. Weather is unpredictable and can be cold and blustery in late September, so bring clothing suitable for a range of conditions.

National Public Lands Day partners with five federal land management agencies to provide a special thank you to volunteers. Volunteers who participate in a National Public Lands Day activity will receive a coupon good for a one-time free entrance to the federal public lands day area of their choice. To learn more about all of the volunteer opportunities on public lands throughout the region, visit the National Public Lands Day website at <http://www.publiclandsday.org>.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 738 AM MDT TUE SEP 15 2015

Today: Breezy. Rain likely and isolated thunderstorms...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms late in the afternoon. Highs 50 to 56. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Gusts up to 40 mph. Chance of precipitation 80 percent.

Tonight: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Isolated thunderstorms in the evening. Scattered rain showers through the night. Scattered snow showers in the late evening and early morning. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 33 to 39. South winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Wednesday: Breezy. Rain likely. Highs 43 to 49. South winds around 15 mph shifting to the west 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Chance of rain 70 percent.

Wednesday Night: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers and snow showers in the evening...then chance of snow...possibly mixed with rain after midnight. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Lows 27 to 33. West winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday: Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain and snow in the morning...then numerous rain showers and slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Little or no snow accumulation. Highs 42 to 48. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy with numerous rain showers... Possibly mixed with snow showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then partly cloudy with isolated snow showers after midnight. Lows 26 to 32. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, September 16, 2015



This week fisheries crews caught a new record lake trout for Yellowstone Lake, 36 lbs!
The fish is being hoisted by Tom Short.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After two years of solving many collection issues and improving the park's museum records, **Brandon Sexton is leaving Yellowstone** to become curator at Pipe Spring National Monument! Please join us in the YCR Conference Room on Thursday, 9/17, at 3:00 PM for cake and goodies, and to wish Brandon well!

The Mud Volcano loop trail should be back open tomorrow, Sept 17. The only areas that will remain closed will be the two spurs' to Sour Lake and Black Dragon's Caldron. Those spur trails are now demolished and reconstruction will resume in a couple weeks - so stay tuned for future closure notice. Thanks!



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For more information, please call Katy Duffy at 307-699-2696.



Got Drugs? Drug Take Back Day is Sept 26th!

Don't pollute the water system. Instead, take advantage of this great opportunity to turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal on Saturday, September 26th from 10am to 2pm at the YA Building in Gardiner, MT.

They can even take pet medications and over the counter medications.

However, needles cannot be taken.

Please call or email Bonnie Schwartz with questions.

Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

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Join Ricky Harney as he uses landscape, people, and wildlife images to illustrate his personal journey of becoming a professional photographer.



Yellowstone Staff T-shirts and Hoodies Half Off

Stop by a recreation office to purchase a \$9 t-shirt or hoody for \$17.50 while supplies last. Office hours are posted on activity calendars and on our website.



RECENT NEWS RELEASE**Spruce Fire Received Significant Rain Overnight**

The lightning-caused Spruce Fire, burning in the backcountry of Yellowstone National, received significant rain overnight on Monday. The fire had grown to an estimated 2,594 acres as of noon on Monday, before storms moved into the area, dropping approximately .5 inches by Tuesday morning. Weather forecasts call for continued damp weather throughout the next few days. Fire activity has greatly diminished, but the fire is still burning in some areas. Crews will continue to monitor the fire while it plays its natural role in the ecosystem. Smoke from the fire may continue to be visible throughout the park and in surrounding communities; however, no facilities, trails, or roads are threatened and there are no closures in place. To learn more about the role fire plays in the ecosystem, visit www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/fireconsequences.htm.

A much smaller fire, the 5L4 Fire on the Promontory Peninsula at the south end of Yellowstone Lake, was reported on August 24. It was last estimated to be 16 acres and is still burning, though it has not been very active in the last two weeks. Fire activity picked up slightly on Monday afternoon, as gusty winds ushered in the storms, but that was quickly dampened by the overnight rain. Fire crews are also managing this fire for its benefits to park resources. Backcountry campsites 5L3, 5L4, and 6A1 continue to be closed due to the 5L4 Fire.

The decision on how to manage each fire in the park is based on a number of factors, including current and predicted conditions, as well as potential values at risk. There have been two additional park fires that have been suppressed in the last five days: a human-caused fire in Mammoth Hot Springs on September 10 and a lightning-caused fire near the northwest boundary of the park on September 12.

The fire danger in Yellowstone National Park is currently “High.” There are no fire restrictions in place, however, campfires are allowed only in designated grills in park campgrounds, some picnic areas, and specific backcountry campsites.

For up-to-date information on fires burning across the country, go to <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov>. To learn more about fire management in Yellowstone, visit www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/firemanagement.htm.

Yellowstone Invites Visitors to Celebrate Hayden Valley Hawk Watch

On Sunday, September 20, visitors can join Yellowstone Raptor Initiative volunteer Katy Duffy celebrate the spectacle of raptor (bird of prey) migration in Yellowstone National Park’s Hayden Valley. The Hayden Valley Hawk Watch is a great opportunity to watch and learn about raptors, their ecology, and their migration strategies.

At 9:00 a.m., visitors can start the day at Fishing Bridge Visitor Center for a 45-minute presentation to learn some raptor identification tips utilizing the mounted raptors on display. Afterwards, participants may travel to the park’s famed Hayden Valley to observe and learn about the raptors that flow through Yellowstone each fall.

For the field portion of the tour, visitors should meet at 11:00 a.m. at the turnout 6.6 miles south of Canyon Junction and 9 miles north of Fishing Bridge Junction. Each end of the turnout will have a sandwich board indicating the program location and a uniformed ranger with a spotting scope will be on scene. Participants may want to bring a lawn chair for comfortable raptor viewing. Observation of raptors will occur from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Both programs are free and open to the public. For more information, please call Katy Duffy at 307-699-2696.

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

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 823 AM MDT WED SEP 16 2015

Today: Breezy. Rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds and small hail. Highs 41 to 47. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation near 100 percent.

Tonight: Breezy...cloudy. Scattered snow showers and rain showers in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Lows 29 to 35. Southwest winds 15 to 25 mph. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

Thursday: Breezy...cloudy. Scattered snow showers in the morning...then numerous rain showers...possibly mixed with snow showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Snow accumulation up to 1 inch. Highs 40 to 46. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday Night: Cloudy. Numerous snow showers...possibly mixed with rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered snow showers after midnight. Snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches. Total snow accumulation 1 to 3 inches. Lows 26 to 32. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Friday: Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs 47 to 53.

Friday Night: Clear. Lows 25 to 31.

WE WANT YOUR SUBMISSIONS!

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

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. 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 or here: [P:\Safety Committee \(Employee\)\Wellness\Wellness Incentive Program Current](#). 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.

Interested in receiving the latest health and wellness updates?

Access the free wellness newsletter from Mayo Clinic that will come directly to your email inbox. Sign up by pasting this link into your internet browser: <https://newslettersignup.mayoclinic.com/> and following the subscription instructions. There are some great topics for weekly tailgate safety/wellness sessions.

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For Mammoth Community Center (MCC) information and to book your public, private or work events contact us at: <http://mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com>, mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com Mammoth Community Center (MCC) PO Box 503, YNP WY 82190

YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Friday, September 18, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS



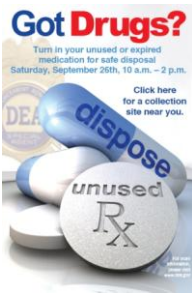
Hayden Valley Hawkwatch

Sunday, September 20

9 AM at the Fishing Bridge Visitor Center 45-minute presentation on raptor identification.

11 AM – 2 PM Meet at the turnout 6.6 mi. south of Canyon Junction (9 mi. north of Fishing Bridge Junction). Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and a lawn chair for comfortable viewing of raptors.

For more information, please call Katy Duffy at 307-699-2696.



Got Drugs? Drug Take Back Day is Sept 26th!

Don't pollute the water system. Instead, take advantage of this great opportunity to turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal on Saturday, September 26th from 10am to 2pm at the YA Building in Gardiner, MT.

They can even take pet medications and over the counter medications.

However, needles cannot be taken.

Please call or email Bonnie Schwartz with questions.

Gerald Townsend, a former Yellowstone employee, passed away on September 1, 2015. Jerry's son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Ginger Townsend, currently live and work in Yellowstone. Tim is the Acting Canyon District Ranger and Ginger works as a nurse for Medcor. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the National Resource Defense Council (www.nrdc.org). Cards can be sent to Tim Townsend c/o Canyon Ranger Station, Yellowstone NP, WY 82190.

PASSING OF GERALD TOWNSEND

Gerald Townsend was born in Missoula, Montana, on Nov. 8, 1940, and raised in Seeley Lake. Growing up he enjoyed riding horses, fishing, and hunting. He went to Montana State College and Northern Montana College where he received an Associates' Degree in Electronics Technology and it was there that he met Jeanne, his wife of 30 years. He lived and worked in several Montana towns early in his career but moved his family to Anchorage, Alaska, in 1968 for a job with the Bureau of Land Management. Jerry's job frequently took him by helicopter and plane to remote mountaintops and wilderness locations installing radio towers and telecommunication systems. He always enjoyed the adventurous part of the job that took him to so many unique places.

In 1979, he took a job with the National Park Service in Yellowstone National Park as the Telecommunications

Supervisor. He lived and worked in Yellowstone for the next 16 years where he watched his family grow. In 1995, with his children grown, he moved back to Anchorage, Alaska, working for the National Park Service. At the age of 55, he took up running and soon began running half and full marathons; including the Boston Marathon in 1997.

He retired in 2002 and initially settled in Silver City, New Mexico, but eventually landed back in God's Country in Livingston, Montana. During his retirement, he became a serious photographer and captured many impressive wildlife photos. He also found a group of great hiking friends and hiked or skied almost every day with them; keeping active to the end.

On Sept. 1, 2015, he lost his battle with cancer and passed away peacefully with family members by his side. He is survived by his four children; his daughter, Cindy and her husband Tom; his daughter, Jerri and her husband Jim; his daughter, Tammy and her husband Tim; and his son, Tim and his wife Ginger; fifteen grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and his brother, Ed.

A memorial service will be held at the Shane Lalani Center in Livingston, Montana, on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. www.dokkennelson.com

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Employee Safety Committee-Wellness

Thanks to all who participated in the Wellness Incentive Program during the month of AUGUST! Names were drawn from among the employees who participated and met the program goal of **500 points per month**. The following employees will receive an award for their participation:

Eric Reinertson-YCR
Brenna Cassidy-YCR
Rafael Velazquez-REYP
Jen Morey-RVP
Todd Opperman-RVP

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



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Employees who checked in or started in Yellowstone between July 14 and September 3. Yellowstone's building access (id) card system has been down since July 14. During that time, we were not able to print out cards, but we did give out PINs for building access. These PINs were meant to be temporary, and they will **expire by September 30**. If you were given a PIN without a building access card, or if you work in the HRC and were given a card without your picture, please see David Kelser in Telecomm or come to Computer Support Services (CSS) to get a card and a new PIN. *(Note that these are not the same as the DOI PIV cards that are issued through the Personnel Office. Those cards do not work with our Building Access system. DOI now requires the use of the PIV "smart" card for signing onto a computer and when accessing the VPN.)*
Thank you for your patience-Roger Whiteside

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Little People's Learning Center, located in Mammoth, is **looking for a part-time teacher** who shares our passion for the education of young children. Experience and education within the field of education (or related field) is ideal, however, we are willing to train the right person. Please give Danielle Deering a call at 307-344-9011 and/or email your resume to littlepeoples330@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

PLASTIC RECYCLING NOTES

- As of **October 1**, we are no longer able to recycle plastic film, i.e. grocery bags, baggies, saran wrap, etc. Some of you have already noticed this on the bin signs. When this type of plastic is found in the plastic recycle bins it will be removed and sent to the landfill, therefore, you are encouraged to use reusable shopping bags.
- A reminder: when given the choice between purchasing something in plastic, glass, or aluminum - choose aluminum for recyclability.

OTHER RECYCLE NOTES

In an attempt to keep paper from escaping, when being dumped from the bin behind the Administration Building, we have set up a large multi-unit bin which will be trucked directly from the site rather than dumped into the truck to be hauled.

The Gardiner School and the Yellowstone Association are offering the Jr. Master Naturalist Program for students K-8th during the 2015-2016 school year. Students will meet one Friday a month to explore different Yellowstone topics while working towards receiving their Jr. Master Naturalist certificate. From snow science to macroinvertebrates, becoming a Jr. Master Naturalist is all about gaining curiosity about the natural world and having the passion to share it with others! For more information contact Richelle Riley at rriley@gardiner.org

The Yellowstone Association is seeking **Volunteer Program Assistants** for this winter season! This volunteer will support YA Institute Field Seminars which are based at the Lamar Buffalo Ranch field campus. **Program Assistants** welcome and host students, orient them to the Yellowstone Association and the facility, assist instructors in logistical aspects of courses, drive the 14-passenger mini-bus for all field trips, assist in risk management in the field, maintain and clean campus facilities, and help carry out the YA mission to inspire, educate and preserve. Success in this position requires excellent hiking skills, the ability to determine risk of a situation, excellent interpersonal skills and quick thinking.

For more information: <https://apply.coolworks.com/ya/job-list.asp>

The Yellowstone Association Institute will host a NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute Wilderness First Responder (WFR) certification course at Lamar Buffalo Ranch in November. Required by many outdoor employers and recommended for all outdoor enthusiasts, this course teaches you through classroom sessions and field exercises to prevent and respond to incidents in the backcountry. Upon successful completion of this 80-hour course, you will receive certifications in Wilderness First Responder and CPR. No previous certification is required. For more information: <https://www.yellowstoneassociation.org/program/wilderness-first-responder-2>

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includes a monthly meeting and time planning events. Two positions open in the near future but always need folks to volunteer their time for events. Remember, the MCC is your community center. If you would like to hold events that are open to the public no fees are required. Feel free to host a community potluck on your own or simply use the facility for sports, library, movie night, etc. Join our fitness center for a mere \$10/month or \$50/6months Please ask a board member if interested/questions or email us @ mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com and visit our website @ mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com.





National Public Lands Day

Saturday, September 19
8:00 a.m.
BLM Cody Field Office: 1002 Blackburn Street
Bring: Work gloves, layers, water, lunch

Take part

in improving pronghorn habitat in the Bighorn Basin.

Connect to the wildlife, plants, and special resources found on public lands near your home.

Join us to remove net-wire fence and install smooth-wire fencing on YU Bench to enhance wildlife migration.





Participants *receive* a free pass to a public lands site and a t-shirt.



YELLOWSTONE CO-OP EMPLOYEE RECREATION PROGRAM YCERP.ORG

Summer Photo Contest Results

Three hundred employees voted to determine their favorite photos from the summer of 2015. This year's photographs were exceptional. Congratulations to all participants and to the winning photographers. Results can be viewed at ycerp.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR



September 18th 7:00 pm OF Rec Hall
 October 5th 6:00 pm MHS Conference Room
 Join Ricky Harney as he uses landscape, people, and wildlife images to illustrate his personal journey of becoming a professional photographer.



Yellowstone Staff T-shirts and Hoodies Half Off

Stop by a recreation office to purchase a \$9 t-shirt or hoody for \$17.50 while supplies last. Office hours are posted on activity calendars and on our website.



RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Presenters Sought For 13th Annual Fall Photo Festival

The crunch of frost on the morning grass and the sound of bugling elk in the crisp evening air are all signs of fall, which also means it is time for the Yellowstone Fall Photo Festival.



(NPS Photo by Rich Jehle)

This event, now in its thirteenth year, allows photographers to share some of their favorite photos taken in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with other photographers and the public.

The festival will be held at the West Yellowstone Visitor Information Center on Thursday, September 24 at 7:00 p.m. The National Park Service and the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center sponsor the photographic event.

Framed prints are not hung on the wall as part of this photo display, but instead, photographers provide a thumb drive or compact disc with digital images in a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation or in a JPEG format readable by Microsoft Photo Editor. To add to each digital display, which is limited to twenty-five images or five minutes, photographers will narrate their presentations.

While there are no prizes at the festival, photographers are sure to be awarded with the accolades of all participating and attending the photo presentations.

Interested photographers should contact Rich Jehle at 307-344-2840 or 307-344-2754 or by email at rich_jehle@nps.gov for more information. Participants must register by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 23.

IN THE NEWS

Yellowstone all in on clean energy project

September 17, 2015 7:00 am • Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. — A historic Yellowstone National Park property that a century ago was at the leading edge of wildlife conservation is now being used as a model for harnessing renewable energy on-site.

If all goes as planned, in a few years Lamar Buffalo Ranch will no longer rely on burning hydrocarbons to power an educational center, employee housing and outbuildings that are located there.

The ranch — which was used to build up a bison herd from some of the last of the species on Earth — will instead get its electricity from a photovoltaic solar panel array and micro-hydroelectric turbine, both of which will feed into a battery bank made up of discarded hybrid vehicle batteries.

"We would like to have an operation that generally doesn't need a generator," Yellowstone park civil engineer Molly Nelson said on a tour of the ranch. "Because it's an educational facility and because it's off the grid, we would like to eventually go to net-zero energy."

The first step in the process was adding a new 45-kilowatt solar array, which was recently installed on the edge of the ranch and is now up and running. Built and manufactured by Sharp, the 180 panels, each 250 watts, were a donation — like much of the infrastructure going in at Buffalo Ranch.

The solar array sits on about a third of an acre and is down in a natural depression so that it's hard to see from the nearby highway.

"Because it's historic and people come here wanting to see nature and not feel like they're in a developed area, we tried to site them in a low-visibility area," Nelson said.

A smaller array — 14 kilowatts — has been located there since 1995. The electric output of the Sharp system might be more than doubled in size down the road, and built up to 100 kilowatts.

All of the electricity generated is run through an inverter that converts it from AC to DC power and is then fed into a battery bank. A room full of 208 reused hybrid vehicle batteries, all from Toyota Camrys, stores the power until lightbulbs, heaters and appliances at the ranch buildings use it up.

Using the car batteries as a bank for the solar power was a bit of an experiment, Nelson said. The system didn't go live until this May.

"This is pioneering it," Nelson said. "That's why it has taken a while to get it up and running, because it's been an iterative process."

Because of a proprietary design Yellowstone did not allow the News&Guide to photograph the battery configuration.

Imagine a wall-size cubby box, each compartment containing its own old Camry battery. Wires lead into and out of each battery.

Although the batteries, which also were donated, have collectively transported people tens of millions of road miles, indications are that they'll last for at least 20 years, Nelson said.

The battery bank is a critical component of the Lamar Buffalo Ranch project.

Because the sun sets each night and a low-angle sun and snowstorms are a reality in the winter months, the system packs away electricity gathered during sunny times for use later on.

Camry batteries can be fully charged in 12 hours and collectively can store enough power to satisfy electricity demands at the campus for two to three days, Nelson said.

Other clean power additions and energy-efficiency measures are on the horizon at the Buffalo Ranch.

A water main that feeds out of a spring on the banks of nearby Rose Creek will soon lead to a micro-hydro turbine.

Electricity generated from the turbine will be about 4.5 kilowatts, enough to power just a couple of small homes. Although not as substantial as the solar array, electricity from the turbine will be continuous, which is important.

"It's a significant amount for this campus," Nelson said, "especially because hydro coming from a spring that's flowing constantly is a constant input, whereas solar is during the day when there's sun."

The micro-hydro turbine could be built as soon as this year, but funds need to be raised. The Yellowstone Park Foundation is heading that effort, Nelson said.

Also down the road is a solar system that will provide hot water, and energy-efficiency and insulation improvements to buildings at the site. Someday the system's performance will be broadcast online, Nelson said.

Altogether, Yellowstone figures that renewable energy will "theoretically eliminate" propane use at the Lamar ranch, park plans show. In a recent one-year span 14,846 gallons were used at the site.

To complete the whole project, Nelson said, might take "five to 10" years.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/yellowstone-all-in-on-clean-energy-project/article_bd34e7b8-f3ce-5a7b-a531-a51b843422c8.html#ixzz3m6NLKYCW

WEATHER

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Last Update: 739 AM MDT FRI SEP 18 2015

Today: Mostly cloudy early in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Patchy fog early in the morning. Highs 45 to 51. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 26 to 32.

Saturday: Breezy. Partly cloudy. Highs 50 to 56. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 28 to 34. West winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Sunday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 57 to 63. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 33 to 39.

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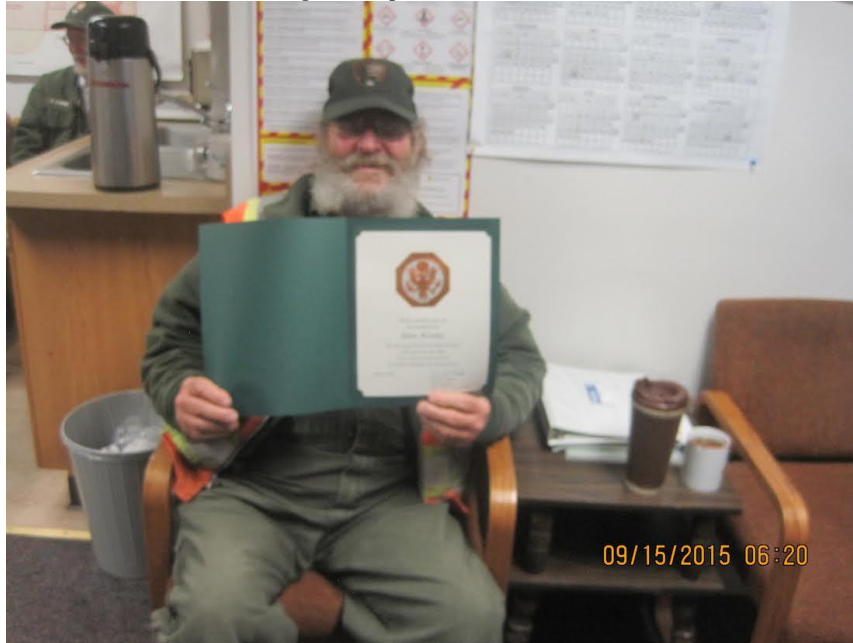
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YNP@Work

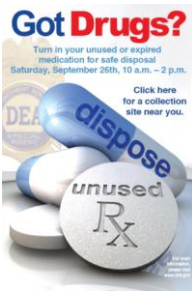
A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, September 21, 2015



Congratulations Jim Eneboe on 10 years of service!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 35 to 41. West winds 15 to 20 mph in the evening becoming southwest around 15 mph early in the morning.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 63 to 69. South winds around 15 mph early in the morning becoming south around 15 mph early in the afternoon... Then shifting to the southwest late in the afternoon.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 37 to 43. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 62 to 68.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Lows 34 to 40.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 22, 2015



Congratulations Dean Hodo on 10 years of service!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming CPR classes!



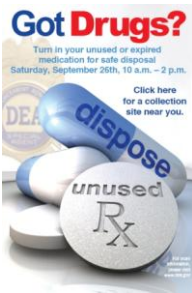
Heartsaver CPR and First Aid is the class for community members and the lay person.

Date/Time: **Friday, September 25, 2015 8:30 am – 4ish**
(bring lunch so you can work through lunch and end earlier)
Location: Mammoth Community Center

Date/Time: **Saturday, September 26, 2015 8:30 am – 4ish**
(bring lunch so you can work through lunch and end earlier)
Location: Mammoth Community Center

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](#)

Got Drugs? Drug Take Back Day is Sept 26th!



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The Gardiner School and the Yellowstone Association are offering the Jr. Master Naturalist Program for students K-8th during the 2015-2016 school year. Students will meet one Friday a month to explore different Yellowstone topics while working towards receiving their Jr. Master Naturalist certificate. From snow science to macroinvertebrates, becoming a Jr. Master Naturalist is all about gaining curiosity about the natural world and having the passion to share it with others! For more information contact Richelle Riley at rriley@gardiner.org

Mammoth Community Center (MCC) is gearing up for Fall events to include our Halloween Carnival, Ski Swap and Warren Miller Movie. With that said, we are looking for volunteers to help with the events but also want to encourage anyone interested to join our Board of Directors. Time commitment for board members includes a monthly meeting and time planning events. Two positions open in the near future but always need folks to volunteer their time for events. Remember, the MCC is your community center. If you would like to hold events that are open to the public, no fees are required. Feel free to host a community potluck on your own or simply use the facility for sports, library, movie night, etc. Join our fitness center for a mere \$10/month or \$50/6months Please ask a board member if interested/questions or email us @ mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com and visit our website @ mammothcommunitycenter.weebly.com.

YELLOWSTONE CO-OP EMPLOYEE RECREATION PROGRAM [YCERP.ORG](http://ycerp.org)

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October 5th 6:00 pm MHS Conference Room
Join Ricky Harney as he uses landscape, people, and wildlife images to illustrate his personal journey of becoming a professional photographer.



Yellowstone Staff T-shirts and Hoodies Half off

Stop by a recreation office to purchase a \$9 t-shirt or hoody for \$17.50 while supplies last. Office hours are posted on activity calendars and on our website.



WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 909 AM MDT TUE SEP 22 2015

Today: Mostly sunny in the late morning and early afternoon then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 65 to 71. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy until early morning then clearing. Lows 36 to 42. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Highs 63 to 69. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 34 to 40. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Thursday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 64 to 70.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 36 to 42.

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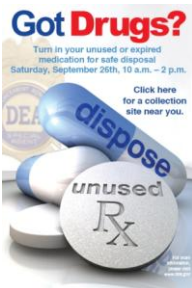
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Thursday: Mostly sunny. Highs 64 to 70. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Thursday Night: Mostly clear. Lows 38 to 44.

Friday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 69 to 75.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 39 to 45.

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Thursday, September 24, 2015



While Zach is in Finance crunching numbers for our fiscal year end,
this cow was crunching something else on Zach's porch!!!
(photo by Kathy Cunningham)

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Date/Time: **TOMORROW 8:30 am – 4ish**

(bring lunch so you can work through lunch and end earlier)

Location: Mammoth Community Center

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(bring lunch so you can work through lunch and end earlier)

Location: Mammoth Community Center

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RECENT NEWS RELEASES

Pete Webster Named as Chief Ranger of Yellowstone



Pete Webster/NPS Photo

Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk announced today that Pete Webster has been selected as the park's new chief ranger. Webster has been the deputy chief ranger since July of 2014, and has intermittently shared the role of interim chief ranger for much of the past year. Webster succeeds Tim Reid who became the Superintendent at Devils Tower National Monument last fall. Webster is the park's 17th chief ranger in the nearly 100 years it has been managed by the National Park Service.

As chief ranger, Webster is responsible for overseeing more than 275 employees in the Resource and Visitor Protection Division who perform law enforcement, emergency medical services, search and rescue, wildland and structural fire, dispatch, fee collection, special use permitting, trails, corrals, and backcountry operations.

"I am very pleased that Pete accepted this challenge," said Wenk. "He brings a wealth of experience to this position, including proven leadership and a strong institutional knowledge of Yellowstone's resources and operations. His background as a field ranger, front-line supervisor, and chief ranger in a variety of parks across the country will serve him well in this complex position."

During the past seven years, Webster has managed law enforcement, emergency services, fire, visitor management, dispatch, and wilderness operations in his roles as the deputy chief ranger at Yellowstone, chief ranger at Denali National Park and Preserve, and deputy chief ranger at Shenandoah National Park. He began his National Park Service career in 1988 as a Student Conservation Association intern at Glacier National Park. During his career, he has also served as the district and sub-district ranger at Glacier and at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park and has worked as a field law enforcement park ranger at Yellowstone, Glacier, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Death Valley National Park, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Mount Rainier National Park.

A native of the Detroit, Michigan area, Webster received a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management from Michigan State University in 1989. He and his wife, Dawn, live in Mammoth, Wyoming, and have three children, ages 17, 15, and 10.

IN THE NEWS

New Americans take the oath in Yellowstone

Seven Jacksonites make their choice of home official in Mammoth naturalization ceremony.

Posted: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 4:30 am

[New Americans take the oath in Yellowstone](#) By Cassandra Whelihan

Seven Jackson Hole residents with decades of collective time living in the United States became citizens this month.

Smooth jazz drifted through a crowd that overlooked Liberty Cap at Mammoth Hot Springs as participants from Idaho, Montana and Wyoming awaited the naturalization ceremony Sept. 9 in Yellowstone National Park.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Carman granted 37 immigrants official U.S. citizenship as their families watched. Seven of the new citizens are Jackson residents who trace their beginnings back to Ecuador, the Philippines, Lithuania, Belarus, Mexico, Moldova and Lebanon.

“It has not always been easy for some of you,” Carman said. “I don’t know your life stories, I don’t know your life histories, but I’m sure many of them involve hardship and escape.

“You have worked hard to reach this day,” he said. “All of you have, even if it’s just dealing with the legal, educational and emotional struggles of becoming an American citizen. You have earned this day, you have earned your citizenship.”

The ceremony included a mounted color guard, a taped audio address by President Barack Obama and speeches from Deputy Director of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Lori Scialabba, Yellowstone Deputy Superintendent Steve Iobst and Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee Pico. Sara Thane, a representative from the office of Sen. Jon Tester, of Montana, was also there.

New citizen and Jackson resident Liudviha Tsudzik, who goes by Lucy, said she’s glad the long process is over.

“I feel relieved first of all and very happy,” Tsudzik said. “It was my case; I felt like I’ve earned it.”

Tsudzik, originally from Belarus, has been in the United States since 2001, when she first traveled here for school. Five years later she found herself a member of the Jackson community, where she is a waitress at Snake River Brewing as well as the Bunnery.

“In my country I always had the feeling that I didn’t belong,” Tsudzik said. “I kept telling my mom I was going to live overseas. It was just something I felt inside.”

For Tsudzik, Jackson is a special place and very close to her heart.

“It does feel like freedom,” Tsudzik said after the ceremony.

To be eligible for naturalization, you must be 18 years old and have been a permanent resident for at least five years — three years if you are married to a U.S. citizen — and meet other eligibility requirements. For Tsudzik the entire process took over six years.

That was not the case for all the immigrants. It took Alma Leticia Yohe, originally from Mexico, eight months.

“I like to respect every country, and I respect the United States,” Yohe said.

Yohe has been in the states since October 1999. She first came to the country on a six-month work visa to learn English. During that time she met her husband, an American, and eventually came back to the states where she got married and had a son.

“This is a new step for me and a new journey,” Yohe said. “It’s a great feeling.”

After living in Jackson for 18 years, Giedrius Skupas, from Lithuania, is happy to be a U.S. citizen. He originally came to Jackson as an exchange student and, like many residents in the valley, he enjoys skiing, hunting and fishing. But he had to choose between Lithuanian and American citizenship.

“We can have only one citizenship,” Skupas said. Lithuania’s laws say dual citizenship is not permitted, “so it took me a while to think about becoming a United States citizen.”

Skupas is a general contractor and owns his own business in the valley. His mother and brother also live in the states, but in addition to enjoying the outdoors and family, having a voice was an important aspect in his decision to naturalize.

“I want to participate in Teton County, in elections,” he said, “help elect representatives.”

Iannette Chan Olais, from the Philippines, echoed Skupas’ sentiment on the value of participation.

“So the main difference is when you are a green card holder resident you don’t have the right to vote, to [be on] the jury or to participate,” Olais said. “But you have to have a voice if you want to make a difference.”

It was in Saudi Arabia that Olais met her husband, who at the time was working there. The pair decided to get married back in the Philippines, where they both were from. The choice to move to the United States came from not only job opportunities but also a desire to start a family.

“Being in the Middle East, we didn’t think it was favorable to start a family there,” Olais said.

She has been in Jackson for 13 years, first through a work visa for her husband, who is employed by St. John’s Medical Center. They received residency through sponsorship by the hospital, which led to citizenship eligibility. They have two children who were born in America, and it was important for the family to be united.

“My kids are born here, so they are U.S. citizens,” Olais said. “So every time they ask me, ‘Mommy are you like us, are you American?’ No, I’m still Filipino, so we wanted the family to be on the same page.”

When Yara Isabel Abad Pesantez, of Ecuador, looks at many of the other immigrants and their stories, she feels that hers doesn’t quite match.

“I don’t have this great immigrant story,” Pesantez said. “Now I am part of this amazing country where people are truly free, but at the same time I come from a really amazing country as well.”

She moved from Ecuador to Jackson eight years ago and teaches third- grade dual immersion class at Colter Elementary, teaching in her native tongue. For her, becoming a citizen is about contributing to Jackson and its cultural thread.

“I think that it’s a very open community,” Pesantez said. “The fact that I come from a completely different culture and there is a program such as the dual immersion program where I get to teach my language, my culture, kind of share a little bit of my traditions, it just shows that Jackson as a community is a very open-minded community, very welcoming.”

The naturalization ceremony represented a new chapter for the 37 immigrants, but one of encouragement to share their experiences, their cultures and their beliefs to enrich this country. The speakers asked that they use their freedoms and talents to contribute to the good of the nation and the world — to help write the next great American chapter like so many immigrants before them.

“The diversity of America is represented by the diversity of our new citizens that are seated in front of me right now,” Magistrate Carman said. “The different cultures, the traditions, the experience combined gives this country a richness of people that you will find nowhere else on earth.”

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Monday, September 28, 2015



Merissa Strawsine, Interpretation at Norris, took these two pictures and placed them side-by-side to show everyone how much Yellowstone is always changing. Tantalus Creek in Porcelain Basin is a normally bright, vibrant green, but it is now almost colorless due to Pinwheel Geyser erupting the other day!

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DELAWARE NORTH CELEBRATES

100

YEARS OF EXCELLENT SERVICE

JOIN US IN

YELLOWSTONE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

MAMMOTH GENERAL STORE 10:30 - 11:00 AM	YELLOWSTONE ADVENTURE STORE 12:30 - 1:00 PM	OLD FAITHFUL GENERAL STORE 2:30 - 3:00 PM
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Delaware North

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YELLOWSTONE CO-OP EMPLOYEE RECREATION PROGRAM YCERP.ORG



PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR

October 5th 6:00 pm

MHS Conference Room

Join Ricky Harney as he uses landscape, people, and wildlife images to illustrate his personal journey of becoming a professional photographer.



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WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 823 AM MDT MON SEP 28 2015

Today: Partly cloudy. Highs 58 to 64. West winds around 15 mph in the afternoon.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Lows 34 to 40. Southwest winds around 15 mph early in the evening becoming south around 15 mph early in the morning.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly cloudy. Highs 62 to 68. Southwest winds around 15 mph.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy. Lows 36 to 42. Southwest winds around 15 mph in the evening.

Wednesday: Partly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 63 to 69. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then mostly cloudy with scattered rain showers after midnight. Lows 37 to 43. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

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YNP@Work

A Newsletter for NPS Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Tuesday, September 29, 2015



Last Saturday was National Public Lands Day! Twenty-five volunteers came out to provide assistance on two trail projects near Lamar Valley. This group assisted in obliterating social trails and delineating actual trails at the Lamar River Stock Trailhead (Hitching Post) and the old trail scar to the Petrified Forest.

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Healthcare Provider CPR Refresher being offered at Old Faithful

Date/Time: October 11, 2015 10:00 am

Location: Old Faithful Ranger Station

Sign up on the [P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2015 First Aid and CPR sign up\Healthcare Provider CPR \(for EMTs\)\Health Care Provider OFRS 10-11-15.doc](P:\Safety Office\First Aid and CPR Training\2015 First Aid and CPR sign up\Healthcare Provider CPR (for EMTs)\Health Care Provider OFRS 10-11-15.doc). Space is limited.

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IN THE NEWS

Giant Geyser, 2nd largest in Yellowstone, erupts

18 hours ago • By Brett French

One of Yellowstone National Park's largest geysers shot to life early Monday morning, an eruption that would have occurred in the dark if not for a full moon.

A park [webcam](#) captured Giant Geyser blowing steam and water into the air at about 5:03 a.m. and lasting for nearly an hour. The geyser is located northwest of the more popular Old Faithful Geyser, right next to the Firehole River. The event was first noted by the [Yellowstone Insider](#) website.

"Any eruption of a geyser is pretty darn amazing," said Hank Heasler, Yellowstone's lead geologist. "For me, each eruption of Old Faithful is as impressive as the first."

With 500 geysers and 1,300 thermal features under his purview, Heasler is often notified by social media of activities like Giant's eruption, or inquiries about such posts. That was the case on Monday.

Giant last erupted in 2010 and was [active between](#) 2005 and 2008, according to the [Geyser Observation and Study Association](#)'s website.

"One of the things about geysers is that they are absolutely fascinating things to behold," Heasler said, but from a monitoring standpoint he's more interested in looking at the factors involved in the eruption, like studying a whole wolf pack instead of just one wolf.

Giant is a cone geyser, as opposed to a fountain geyser that erupts from a pool, with a large tree-trunk-like mouth built up from the silica ejected during eruptions. According to GOSA's website, Giant is the second-largest geyser in the world, capable of ejecting an estimated million gallons of water 250 feet into the air. Steamboat Geyser, also in Yellowstone, is considered the largest geyser in the world.

Although Giant's height declines as the eruption continues, it can spout for as long as an hour while maintaining a height of 100 feet for half that time, GOSA said. Whether "geyser gazers" can stake out the spot in hopes of seeing it erupt again is uncertain because Giant is so unpredictable. For that reason, Giant is not one of the 12 geysers monitored by the park's staff.

Will Boekel, of the GOSA, said he wouldn't be rushing to view the geyser, even though its eruption is rare.

"At this point, we don't kill ourselves waiting for it," he said, although admitting that its eruption is "really cool."

"It's one of our rare performers," he said. "But there are times in history when it's been one and done. There are other times, though, like in 2008, when it's erupted every four to 10 days."

Giant Geyser was named by the Washburn-Langford-Doane Expedition in 1870, an Army-escorted scientific, exploration and mapping journey. The group also named Old Faithful. Two years later, due in part to the information collected during the expedition and another a year later, Yellowstone was named the first national park in the United States.

Read more: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/giant-geyser-nd-largest-in-yellowstone-erupts/article_0c01f682-3377-5a57-a664-df28c8709069.html#ixzz3n933pd00

WEATHER

NWS Forecast for: Yellowstone National Park

Issued by: National Weather Service Riverton, WY

Last Update: 638 AM MDT TUE SEP 29 2015

Today: Breezy. Mostly sunny. Highs 61 to 67. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows 34 to 40. West winds around 15 mph early in the evening.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny in the morning...then partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 62 to 68. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Wednesday Night: Partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers after midnight. Lows 36 to 42. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Chance of rain showers in the morning...then rain showers likely and slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 54 to 60. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Thursday Night: Rain showers likely and slight chance of thunderstorms in the evening...then chance of rain showers after midnight. Lows 35 to 41. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

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Wednesday, September 30, 2015



Many thanks to the Fire Cache crew for restoring the view behind the Grant Visitor Center.
(photo by Jonathan Nicholson)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Long time education ranger and Mammoth-Gardiner community member, **Cara Watchorn** is leaving Yellowstone for Nebraska. Come say farewell **tonight, Wednesday Sept 30**, at the Two Bit 6-8pm.

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New Service Addresses in Yellowstone National Park

If you are ordering new phone or electric service, are moving a telephone number to a new location, or are constructing a new building then send your request for a new service address to YELL_phoneaddress@nps.gov. Yellowstone has addressed all of the streets and buildings within the park's boundaries and the building numbers we have used for years have changed. Having the correct service address is essential to getting repairs and receiving emergency service.

Connect America Fund Broadband expansion in Montana

CenturyLink is expanding broadband in 1,190,016 locations across the US with \$514,334,051 of matching FCC Connect America Fund Phase II dollars. The offer of model-based support is targeted to price cap areas that are high-cost, but not extremely high-cost. Yellowstone will not benefit under the current program as Wyoming was

determined to be extremely high cost and was therefore determined to be ineligible. Montana was determined to be eligible and will see broadband projects expanding into rural areas over the next few years.

<https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/connecting-america>



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Date/Time: October 11, 2015 10:00 am
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Last Update: 709 AM MDT WED SEP 30 2015

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Tonight: Mostly cloudy. Isolated rain showers and thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers after midnight. Lows 38 to 44. South winds around 15 mph in the evening. Chance of precipitation 30 percent.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy. Scattered rain showers in the morning...then scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 56 to 62. Southwest winds around 15 mph late in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Thursday Night: Cloudy. Scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening...then scattered rain showers after midnight. Lows 36 to 42. Chance of precipitation 50 percent.

Friday: Rain showers likely in the morning...then rain showers likely and slight chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs 48 to 54. Chance of precipitation 60 percent.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Lows 31 to 37.

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