

YNP@Work

For Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, October 2, 2017



News

Boardwalk Crew at Mammoth Hot Springs / Jake Frank

Park Buys Replacement Housing

As part of the long-term goal of improving employee housing, the park is purchasing nine 2-bedroom units and seven 1-bedroom units containing a total of 25 bedrooms. These units will replace sub-standard housing in the park (rather than add to our housing inventory). "Replacing these units allows us to eliminate some of our sub-standard housing," said Kenney. "We still have a long way to go, but this is a really significant step."

A team is already meeting to determine where the units can be placed based on roof snow loads, etc. The regional office contributed approximately \$600K for the purchase and the park spent \$30K. The money to install the new units will come from funds in FY18. This has been a team effort by staff from the park, contracting, and regional facilities management.

Fall All Employees Meeting: Help us improve

The park's next all employee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Center. An inter-divisional employee group has taken on the task of improving employee meetings and to do this, they need to know: what matters to you? What do you want to talk about at this meeting? [Please take our ONE question survey](#) by **Tuesday, October 3**, so the team can begin to build an agenda for the meeting based on employee feedback. Further meeting details and logistics will be shared over the next three weeks, so stay tuned!

Winter Courier: Are you ready for winter?

If you live in the interior, now is the time to prepare for your fall and winter supply needs. Please plan ahead and make large purchases (i.e. dog food, freeze dried meals, heaters, car parts, home decor) before the roads are closed to wheeled travel. Last season the courier was overwhelmed with these types of packages.

- Courier services are intended for USPS and interoffice mail and packages.

Quick links for:

- [Squad Notes](#)
- [Focus Days Key Messages](#)
- [YNP@Work Archives](#)
- [Employee Safety Committee](#)
- [Suggestion Box](#)

- Personal UPS/FedEx packages are accepted if space allows.
- Not intended for home businesses or subscription services since the weather or mechanical issues may delay transport and the vehicle is not temperature controlled.

If you have any questions before the season starts, please contact Rachel Cudmore at (307) 344-2722.

Wait! Before you leave:

This year, over 440 seasonal employees were working in Yellowstone for NPS. Your efforts, time and dedication to the park helped make this season successful. Thank you! As you begin to prepare for the end of your season, here is a checklist of items to keep track of.

- **Got a vacuum?** Cleaning prior to checkout is required by all tenants. Utilize the [cleaning checklist](#) to make sure you are on track. If you don't have the equipment or tools necessary to clean your housing, work with your supervisor or local maintenance staff to locate the items you need. You can also have someone stop by the Supply Center for a variety of items.
- **Have roommates?** Charges for damage or additional cleaning, not attributed to a specific roommate, are *divided among all roommates*. Bring up any roommate concerns with your supervisor prior to checkout.
- **Provide your feedback:** [Take the Seasonal Employee Exit Survey](#) and share your experience and feedback with the park to help us grow as an organization.
- **Turn in your credentials:** employee ID (Computer Support), PIV Card (supervisor), law enforcement badges and cards (supervisor or LEO).
- **Radios/Pagers:** turn in all radios and pagers to Telecom.

Safety Corner

Mental Health First Aid Class

The course scheduled for tomorrow, October 3, has been **POSTPONED**. New dates are being considered, with the location remaining in the Mammoth/Gardiner area.

Looking for Safety Champions

Proactive steps are taken every day by employees to ensure safety in the workplace. If you see something that can be done to improve safety in Yellowstone, or if you have seen a co-worker who has done something positive about safety share it with the Employee Safety and Wellness Team! The team is here to help share safety messages and to recognize those who help keep themselves and others safe through the Safety Recognition Program (SRP). To make a nomination, send an [email to the SRP program manager](#). You can also use this same link [to report a hazard occurring in the park](#). Full program details can be found on the [YELL SharePoint site](#).

Life & Leisure

Second Annual Clothing Swap

NPS and Xanterra invite the Yellowstone community to the 2nd annual clothing swap on October 25, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Rec Hall. Employees, friends, and family of Xanterra, NPS, Delaware North, YPSS, Medcor, Yellowstone Forever, and the Mammoth/Gardiner community are invited.

- No clothing to exchange? All are invited to come and pick up a few free items to add to their wardrobe.
- Drop off in advance at the Rec Hall. A large laundry bin will be located on the stage.
- What will be accepted? Men's, women's, and children's clean, gently worn; shirts, t-shirts, pants, sweaters, jackets, shoes, handbags, jewelry, scarves...

Mammoth Community Center

The Mammoth Community Center (MCC) is looking for fun, dynamic, and motivated individuals to join its Board of Directors. This is your chance to serve your community and have fun. For more details, please contact the MCC at mammothboardyellowstone@gmail.com or contact Larry Glickman at 307-344-2274.

Yellowstone CO-OP Employee Recreation (YCERP)

Looking for a hiking buddy? Wishing you could rekindle your passion for kickball? Look no further than your local YCERP office! YCERP provides recreational opportunities where employees can connect to Yellowstone in fun and meaningful ways. [Visit their webpage](#) to view a full list of events, activities and learning opportunities.

Jobs

USAJOBS.gov connects job seekers with federal employment opportunities. As the federal government's official employment site, USAJOBS.gov provides resources to help the right people find the right jobs. The position listed below is an internal lateral-transfer opportunity.

[Visitor Use Assistant \(Career-Seasonal\)](#)

(GS 05)

Full Time- Permanent

Current NPS/Status Candidates

Closes 10/4/2017

[Park Ranger- Law Enforcement \(Lake/Lamar\)](#)

(GS 09)

Full Time- Permanent

Current/Status Candidates

Closes 10/4/2017

[Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic](#)

(WG 10)

Full Time- Permanent

Public

Closes 10/12/2017

Training

NPS and DOI offer multiple types of practical training and career development options. Trainings are usually in-person or online, while development programs are geared towards an overall professional development goal. Listed below are current trainings available to employees.

Winter EMS Course

Yellowstone National Park Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will host an EMT class beginning on November 6, 2017. Upon completion of this class, graduates will be eligible to test for Montana certification as well as National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Basic (NREMT-B) certification. For details on class dates, pre-requisites and for information on how to apply, [view the full message and course syllabus](#) from Lloyd Kruger.

Healthcare Benefits Training

There will be an FEHB Open Season Q&A Wednesday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Mammoth Community Center. I expect GEHA, Aetna, BCBS, and Benefeds to be attending.

Retirement Training

Hosted by Catherine Bermond from HROC, this training will be offered as a full-day seminar, [read the brief one-page flyer](#) for a few more course details. [Sign-up online for the half-day or full-day session.](#)

- October 10: **Full Day Seminar** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Center
 - If you are unable to join the full day, the morning will be an introduction and afternoon specifics.
- October 11: **Full-day Seminar** 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Mammoth Community Center
 - If you are unable to join the full day, please feel free to drop in when you can.

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YNP@Work

For Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, October 11, 2017



News

Hiker on Sepulchur Mountain / Jake Frank

All Employee Meeting: Ready for an upgrade?

In an effort to make all employee meetings more conversational and informative, a team of employees from various park divisions and locations has been working to revitalize our employee meetings. On **Thursday, November 2 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.** join your co-workers and management to talk about park topics, learn about employee resource groups, and, of course, ask questions of the Superintendent. Here are some things you can expect to see:

- **Employee Shuttles:** the park has set aside two shuttles for interior staff to utilize for getting to and from the meeting.
- **Community Lunch:** employees are encouraged to bring a dish to share for a social hour to follow.
- **Virtual Attendance:** the meeting will be broadcast live for those unable to travel to Mammoth with a facilitator to help engage participants.
- **Participation:** not ready to voice your opinion? That's ok! Employees will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments in non-verbal ways.
- **Topics:** after polling employees, the team has a list of topics you would like to learn more about.:

One component of the meeting will be sharing success stories from this summer, which should focus on how staff worked together and across divisions to accomplish a task/goal.

If you have any examples of success, please submit them to the digital [Suggestion Box](#), or send a hard copy in a blue envelope to Bethany Gassman. The employee team will be finalizing the agenda and will provide it to employees prior to the meeting. See you all there!

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2016 Bird Report

Yellowstone's final Bird Report for 2016 has been finalized and is ready for your viewing! We would also like to thank volunteers who participated in the mid-winter eagle survey: **Lisa Baril, John Cataldo, Beth Coombs, Matt Nagel, Kira Cassidy, John Burman, Brian Thorpe, Keri Thorpe, and Woody Martyn.**

We are grateful to the numerous YNP rangers who helped with field logistics, especially **Michael Curtis, Kevin Dooley, Brian Helms, Pat Navaille, and Dave Ross. We thank Scott Hancock, Joshua Theurer, Diane Renkin, Jane Olson, and Howard Weinberg** for assistance with owl surveys. We also thank all visitors, YNP staff, and Yellowstone Forever staff who submitted bird sightings.

Safety Corner

Mental Health First Aid Class

Someone you know could be experiencing a mental illness or crisis. You can be part of saving a life, by learning the simple 5-step action plan to offer initial help to help others. On Thursday, October 26, the Mental Health First Aid class will be available to park employees, community members and partners. If you would like to participate, contact Juanita Bueter at yellowstone4911@gmail.com.

Looking for Safety Champions

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Help us raise some dough

This Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14, is the annual Snoopy Cooperative Preschool K-Bar Pizza Fundraiser. Eat lunch or dinner anytime on those two days and 20% will be donated to Snoopy Cooperative Preschool!

Halloween Carnival

Join the community for a “spooktacular” evening on Saturday, October 28 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Kids and adults can test out their costumes and have some fun indoors (and away from elk)! Admission is \$5.00 per person while children under the age of 2 are free. Entry cost includes the costume party, games, dinner, and the new “Haunted Hall.” All proceeds go to support the Little People's Learning Center, and the event is generously sponsored by the Gardiner Market and the Two-Bit Saloon.

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[Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic](#)

(WG 10)

Full Time- Permanent

Public

Closes 10/12/2017

Training

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YNP@Work

For Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Wednesday, October 18, 2017



News

Trail on Avalanche Peak /Diane Renkin

Share a Story of Success

On Thursday, November 2 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. employees will have the opportunity to come together as a team and community. Topics will include: the 2017 summer season, successful collaboration, employee resource groups, and, of course, a conversation with the Superintendent.

In order to make this meeting relevant, the team planning running the meeting wants to hear and share success stories from this summer. Specifically, how did you or your group work across divisions to accomplish a task or goal? If you have any examples of collaboration or teamwork, please submit them to the digital [Suggestion Box](#), or send a hard copy in a blue envelope to Bethany Gassman. The interdivisional employee team creating the agenda will be finalizing details and will provide it to employees prior to the meeting. Thank you!

Yellowstone Veterans – Share Your Story!

The National Park Service wants employees and volunteers with Active Duty Military, Reserve, National Guard, Merchant Marine, or Veterans status to share their stories on a new website about the American Military. Each submission should contain basic info about you (name, current photo, current NPS position, military branch & rank, military status) as well as a narrative that answers questions like:

- How did you make the transition from military to the NPS?
- How does your military experience impact who you are in your NPS career today?
- How did your military service and skills contribute to your role today with the NPS?

View a [published example](#) by James Pierce, or more information [on InsideNPS](#). Please send your photos, text, or additional questions to Neal Herbert at neal_herbert@nps.gov.

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Safety Corner

Injury Update (Bernie Adams)

There's a lot we can learn to prevent accidents and injuries from happening in the workplace. In the last month, thirteen incidents were filed with Human Resources. Here's a glimpse of what was reported mid-Sept through mid-October (includes precautionary filings):

- Head injury while walking through gate
- Head and mouth injury from slip due to wet/icy walkway
- Knee strain exiting ambulance
- Lower back strain while applying snow chains
- Gastrointestinal sickness after transporting sick patient
- Broken tooth from gate chain
- Low back strain while extricating patient from a damaged vehicle
- Low back strain lifting heavy trailer ramps
- Sprained ankle while crossing creek
- Strained knee while controlling suspect
- Exposure to poison wood
- Low back strain and right hand injury after a rope was pulled by a bison

Mental Health First Aid Class

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Halloween Carnival

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Young Frankenstein

The Shane Center in Livingston is presenting Young Frankenstein, a live musical based on the beloved Mel Brooks movie. Same story, characters, and gags plus catchy satirical tunes by Mel himself. Ranger Michael Breis will play the role of Igor. Performances are Oct. 20-Nov 12, Friday and Saturday 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. For tickets and a preview video, go to www.theshanecenter.org. The show is rated PG-13 for adult humor and language (plus there's a monster!).

Community Gear Swap

Looking for a gear upgrade this winter? Keep your sales local and participate in this year’s community gear swap! On December 7, (location to be determined) bring your gently used or new gear and Little People’s Learning Center will do the work of selling it for you! You choose the asking price and if it sells a small consignment goes to support purchasing supplies for center. So, hold on to your skis, tents, hiking, fishing or biking gear, and stay tuned for location information as the date approaches!

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Jobs

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Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

(GS 12/13)

Full Time- Permanent

Current Employees/Veterans

Closes 10/18/2017

Training

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Winter First Responder Course

Yellowstone National Park Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will host a 10 week EMR class beginning on January 8, 2017. For details on class dates, pre-requisites and for information on how to apply, view the full message and course syllabus from Lloyd Kruger.

Healthcare Benefits Training

There will be an FEHB Open Season Q&A Wednesday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Mammoth Community Center. I expect GEHA, Aetna, BCBS, and Benefeds to be attending.

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YNP@Work

For Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, October 23, 2017



News

Great Blue Springs, Lower Geyser Basin/ Thomas Moran

Help Build the Future of Reporting

Today, employees across the nation had the opportunity to listen and learn about the new [Draft Reference Manual 16E - NPS Anti-Harassment Procedures](#). During the call, employees were invited to provide input on the draft document.

- All employees are encouraged to participate in the development of the reference manual. Please use this [form](#) (also available on the [RM 16E page](#)) for submitting your comments about the draft reference manual. Please download the Excel file and send your comments to: nps_nrss_pepc@nps.gov with the subject line "Draft RM-16E Comments."

Share a Story of Success

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In order to make this meeting relevant, the team planning the meeting wants to hear and share success stories from this summer. Specifically, how did you or your group work across divisions to accomplish a task or goal? If you have any examples of collaboration or teamwork, please submit them to the digital [Suggestion Box](#), or send a hard copy in a blue envelope to Bethany Gassman. The interdivisional employee team creating the agenda will be finalizing details and will provide it to employees prior to the meeting. Thank you!

Shoulder Season Courier Begins This Week

Starting this week the courier will begin to operate on the winter schedule of Tuesdays and Thursdays.

- Interior location deliveries/pick-ups will take place at the winter mail drop locations. If you do not know where this is, please ask your supervisor or co-worker.

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- Courier drivers often switch between employees so please contact Tammy Wert or VSO (x2110) if you have any questions or messages for the courier.
- **Mammoth employees:** Items for delivery to the interior should be brought to the Supply Center or the Mail Room no later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the courier run. Clearly label your item with the employee's name and location.
- **Interior employees:** If you are expecting large items or quantities of goods this winter, please arrange to pick them up in person from Mammoth before the roads switch over to over-snow travel.

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- How did you make the transition from military to the NPS?
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View a [published example](#) by James Pierce, or more information [on InsideNPS](#). Please send your photos, text, or additional questions to Neal Herbert at neal_herbert@nps.gov.

Safety Corner

Thrive: An Interactive Way to Improve Your Mood

A research team of health professionals in Montana has developed an interactive digital program called “[Thrive](#)” to help treat depressive symptoms, syndromes and disorders among rural Montanans.

- This project is expected to have an immediate positive impact on Montanans with depressive symptoms, syndromes, and disorders.
- The long-term goal of this project is to provide a culturally acceptable, accessible, engaging, and confidential evidence-based tool to treat depressive symptoms, syndromes and disorders and improve the health and quality of life for Montanans and other rural populations.
- If you are a Montana resident with regular access to a computer or internet, complete the [online questionnaire](#) to see if you are eligible for the program. Besides receiving a \$25 Amazon gift card, you'll have the benefit of participating in free assessments to help improve your quality of life!
- If you do not wish to participate in the study, but would like to learn more about depression, visit the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\) website](#) to learn more about the free services available to all employees.

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Life & Leisure

Check It Out!

Top 3 Reasons why you should get a library card from the Yellowstone Research Library at the HRC:

- Your library card allows you to check out books and movies about Yellowstone from the library.
- Immerse yourself in historic materials about the park and the Gardiner area. Items such as the Polk directories for Park County, Montana that lists businesses, churches, schools, etc. from 1904-1987. And the Yellowstone Scout diaries, 1898-1915, and much more.
- Because of the Research Library's membership in the Wyoming Library Database Consortium, your card allows you to borrow from more than 100 libraries in the consortium, and access ebooks, audiobooks, magazine article databases, language learning, auto repair, genealogy, and more.

Contact Jackie Jerla for more information: jackie_jerla@contractor.nps.gov.

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October 25: Healthcare Benefits Training

There will be an FEHB Open Season Q&A Wednesday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Mammoth Community Center. I expect GEHA, Aetna, BCBS, and Benefeds to be attending.

January 8: Winter First Responder Course

Yellowstone National Park Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will host a 10 week EMR class beginning on January 8, 2017. For details on class dates, pre-requisites and for information on how to apply, view the full message and course syllabus from Lloyd Kruger.

YNP@Work is a newsletter for employees, by employees.

Send feedback or content to Bethany Gassman (Internal Communications Specialist) at Bethany_gassman@nps.gov.

YNP@Work

For Employees of Yellowstone National Park

Monday, October 30, 2017



News

Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Bob Evanoff, arc welding a rotary blower 2017 / Jake Frank

This week: All-Employee Meeting

This Thursday, November 2, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. join your co-workers for the fall all-employee meeting at the Mammoth Community Center.

- **Attend Virtually:** Employees wishing to attend virtually can view the live broadcast on Adobe Connect. The meeting will be recorded so employees can access the information at a later time!
- **Help us be green:** Be sure to sign up for an interior shuttle and bring your own plates and utensils for the potluck to follow.
- **View and Submit:** The [agenda](#) is now available online, employees can also take the opportunity to [submit your questions](#) early.
- **Bring a dish to share:** After the meeting we will have a potluck lunch. Please bring your favorite dish to share! The meeting will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. so please arrive a little early to drop-off your dish.

Federal Benefits “Open Season”

The Federal Benefits “Open Season” period runs from Monday, November 13, 2017 through Monday, December 11, 2017. Open Season is the time of year when NPS employees have the opportunity to make decisions regarding their benefits. This is the time to ensure that you have the right health, dental, or vision insurance coverage for you and your family (*continued*).

Quick links for:

- [Squad Notes](#)
- [Focus Days Key Messages](#)
- [YNP@Work Archives](#)
- [Employee Safety Committee](#)
- [Suggestion Box](#)

- **Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB) Program:** Make changes online at EmployeeExpress.gov
 - Employees can also use [OPM's insurance comparison tool](#) to decide which program is the best fit.
- **Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP):** Employees can [elect a program online](#) and use the [provider comparison tool](#) to review program benefits.
- **Federal Flexible Spending Account Program (FSAFEDS):** View program information, benefits and elect services online at www.fsafeds.com.

NPS Uniform Cache Update

NPS Uniform Cache is temporarily CLOSED in order to pack and move all items in the cache into a new location. Please do not drop off uniforms or accessories anywhere, or send uniform items through the interoffice mail until further notice. The Grand Re-opening of the Uniform Cache will be announced in the near future! Please contact Clare Cloghessy (ext. 2581) with any questions.

Yellowstone Veterans – Share Your Story!

The National Park Service wants employees and volunteers with Active Duty Military, Reserve, National Guard, Merchant Marine, or Veterans status to share their stories on a new website about the American Military. Each submission should contain basic info about you (name, current photo, current NPS position, military branch & rank, military status) as well as a narrative that answers questions like:

- How did you make the transition from military to the NPS?
- How does your military experience impact who you are in your NPS career today?
- How did your military service and skills contribute to your role today with the NPS?

View a [published example](#) by James Pierce, or more information [on InsideNPS](#). Please send your photos, text, or additional questions to Neal Herbert at neal_herbert@nps.gov.

Safety Corner

Do Not Disturb: Distracted Driving

The newest software update for iPhones (iOS 11) includes a feature that can automatically disable or limit notifications while you are driving. Considering the dangers of distracted driving, please consider enabling this feature today. Before driving your car, open the Settings app, go into the Do Not Disturb tab, scroll down to the Do Not Disturb While Driving section, and select “Automatically.” You can read more about the app and how it works [online](#).

Discounted Bridger Ski Tickets

Discounted ski tickets are here! In order to participate in the program, park employees need to buy at least 100 tickets in total to participate. To claim your tickets go to: P:\Safety Committee (Employee)\Bridger Bowl Tickets. Contact Stefanie Wacker with questions: (307) 344-2151 or email Stefanie_wacker@nps.gov.

- **Per the rules set by Bridger Bowl:** These discount tickets are for NPS and immediate family only. Please do not jeopardize this program by buying them for other people.
- **Details:** Tickets are \$49 each/day (save \$11), no blackout dates, anticipated season dates: Dec 8, 2017 - April 1, 2018. Tickets will be distributed early if the season opens early.

Calling for Safety Champions

See something, say something! Help Yellowstone promote safety in the workplace:

- Recognize a co-worker for their safety habits or actions through the Safety Recognition Program (SRP). To submit a nomination for an award, send an email to the [SRP program manager](#).
- Want to report a safety hazard, or make a recommendation? Email a recommendation to the [SRP program manager](#).

Each month, the Employee Safety and Wellness Team (ESWT) vote on awards for nominees! Safety Champions are shared in the monthly ESWT meeting minutes.

Life & Leisure

Dash of the Un-dead

Dressing up for Halloween? This Tuesday, October 31, consider meeting up with the local running group, the Sage Leapers, for their annual Dash of the Un-dead around the parade ground in Mammoth. Meet at the Mammoth Post Office at noon for a walk, run, or jog around the parade ground, or just come to get in our annual photo!

Yellowstone Federal Credit Union Notice

Due to a computer software upgrade, Yellowstone Federal Credit Union will close at noon on Wednesday, November 8, 2017. We apologize for any inconvenience; however, this upgrade must be completed before year-end. We will re-open on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. Federally Insured by NCUA.

Young Frankenstein

The Shane Center in Livingston is presenting Young Frankenstein, a live musical based on the beloved Mel Brooks movie. Same story, characters, and gags plus catchy satirical tunes by Mel himself. Ranger Michael Breis will play the role of Igor. Performances are Oct. 20-Nov 12, Friday and Saturday 8:00 p.m., and Sunday at 3:00 p.m. For tickets and a preview video, go to www.theshanecenter.org. The show is rated PG-13 for adult humor and language (plus there's a monster!).

Yellowstone CO-OP Employee Recreation (YCERP)

Looking for a hiking buddy? Wishing you could rekindle your passion for kickball? Look no further than your local YCERP office! YCERP provides recreational opportunities where employees can connect to Yellowstone in fun and meaningful ways. [Visit their webpage](#) to view a full list of events, activities and learning opportunities.

Jobs

USAJOBS.gov connects job seekers with federal employment opportunities. As the federal government's official employment site, USAJOBS.gov provides resources to help the right people find the right jobs. The position listed below is an internal lateral-transfer opportunity.

None at this time

Training

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