

The YELLOWSTONE

FILE



News

January 23, 1997

NPS Employee Newsletter

Next Deadline: February 18

1997 Scholarship Competition Opens

Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) is currently sponsoring its 11th annual scholarship completion. If you will be attending college next fall and are a federal employee or a dependent of a federal employee, consider applying for a 1997 FEEA scholarship. To qualify, a federal employee applicant or sponsor must have at least three years of federal service and the applicant must maintain a 3.0 minimum grade point average. To receive a scholarship application, call Roseanne Riley at extension 2041, or stop into the Personnel Office.

Box Tops for Education

Get involved in this new program by General Mills "Big G". Just clip the top labels off your General Mills cereal boxes and turn them into the Gardiner School, Paula Tobin at the New Garage, or the North Entrance Shopping Center. The Gardiner School will receive a cash donation of 15 cents per box top from General Mills.

Quotable Quotes

Logic is a systematic method of coming to the wrong conclusion with confidence. —Manly's Maxim

Bison Controversy Heats Up

Yellowstone Superintendent Michael Finley announced Wednesday that bison have continued to migrate near Stephens Creek along the northern boundary of the park. The Interim Bison Management Plan (approved and signed on August 5, 1996) requires that all bison along the northern boundary moving toward adjacent private land where cattle are grazed must be captured and transported to certified slaughter facilities.

However, the plan does provide that "should unusual circumstance develop that are beyond the range of environmental conditions experienced since 1984-86, the agencies may develop contingency plans to assure that removals of bison outside of cattle-free public lands in Montana do not compromise the integrity of the bison herd within Yellowstone National Park." These unusual circumstances now exist with the severe weather conditions the park has been experiencing, the large numbers of bison already taken to slaughter facilities or shot, and the significant winter mortality of bison expected this year.

To mitigate these impacts, the park began testing all captured bison on January 21, 1997, at the Stephens Creek facility. Bison that test seropositive will continue to be shipped to slaughter facilities; bison that test seronegative will be held in a separate area at the Stephens Creek facility while discussions with the State of Montana to develop contingency plans continue.

On January 21, 46 bison were tested for the brucella organism by a veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); test results showed 30 bison as seronegative and 16 seropositive. (Testing seropositive to the brucella organism does not mean a bison is infectious and capable of transmitting the disease; it indicates the bison was exposed to the brucella organism at one time.) Fourteen of the seropositive bison were shipped to a slaughter facility in Columbus, Montana, Wednesday morning (January 22). The remaining two seropositive animals had to be shot by park staff because of injuries sustained during capture operations (a yearling bull on January 21, and a cow on January 22). There are approximately 80 bison in a larger pasture being held until they can be processed.

Other significant events:

- On Wednesday, a coalition of environmental groups asked U.S. District Court in Helena to issue an emergency injunction halting Yellowstone's portion of the bison program.

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Bison Article continued...

- Also on Wednesday, The National Wildlife Federation and the Intertribal Bison Cooperative launched a comprehensive campaign to restore wild buffalo to tribal and ultimately to public lands in the West. As a press release from the National Wildlife Federation states, "This agreement provides an alternative to the ongoing massacre of Yellowstone buffalo by providing a process for Native American management of the animals."

- Montana officials decided Wednesday to erect a fence to block some of the bison migrating from the park across a valley floor north of Gardiner and west of Jardine. The fence will try to plug one of the routes used by bison trying to reach grazing areas across the park line. The fence was the option approved by Governor Racicot at a meeting with wildlife and livestock officials.

Personnel News...

New Permanent Employees

Tim Bernethy--Maintenance Mechanic in the Plumbing Shop

Judi Mihan--Purchasing Agent

Robert Tupek--Electronics Mechanic in Telecommunications

TERM Appointments:

Helene Greninger -- Secretary OA in Interpretation

Retirements:

Frank Kopland retired January 3, 1997, after working 26 seasonal years and almost six years as a permanent employee. Franks says he will now enjoy life at home with his wife, Delores.

Roseanne would like to remind everyone that THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN OPEN SEASON continues through January 31, 1997. Of you have not already done so, please sign up for this important retirement savings plan.

♀♂♀ New Arrivals ♂♀♂

A belated congratulations goes out to Alan and Kim Sumeriski who have a new daughter. Alicia Lyn was born December 31 at 8:23 a.m., weighed 8 pounds and was 21" long. Alicia joins sister Kasey at home.

Heartfelt Condolences

"Dip your heads, tip your hat, and wave your hands to the heavens." Longtime resident of Cooke City and ex-NPS employee, Warren Patten, 70 years old, passed away in the early hours of January 15. (Submitted by Ranger Bundy Phillips, Northeast Entrance)

Clean Up After Your Dog!

Mammoth dog owners need to take a little extra time after Fido does his/her business, even in the wintertime! Here's a helpful solution from Heloise's column that will make things a little easier. "To make an easy-to-carry, easy-to-use pooper scooper, all you need is a half-gallon plastic jug, like the ones milk or juice come in. Starting at the top, in front of the handle, cut out to the widest part of the jug, then continue around the jug until you reach your starting point. Voila! a pooper-scooper with a built-in handle. Remember, most of us are dog lovers, but we don't appreciate having to look or smell your dog's end results!!! Thanks.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

* **Come Tonite and Say Goodbye to the Bahrs** – A potluck dinner will be had this evening, January 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center (new Fire Cache). Please bring place settings and a beverage. A-L bring a salad or dessert and M-Z bring a main dish.

* **Say Goodbye** – to Dan Morin, Renee Westbrook and Annabelle on Wednesday, January 29. They're leaving for Glacier Bay and it's time to wish them well! Stop by the Electric Shop after 4:30 p.m. and enjoy snacks and drinks. See you there!

* **Vet Visit** – Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, January 31 from 2 to 5 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next visit: February 14.

* **Resource Management Workshop and Dinner** – Sit in on the Eleventh Annual Resource Management Workshop being held February 4-6 at the YCC Camp. The workshop theme this year is Yellowstone's Natural and Cultural Resources. The YFEA will sponsor the normal Tuesday night dinner which features a slide presentation by Mike Phillips and an update on wolf reintroduction. For more information, call Tom Olliff at 344-2143.

* **Fourth Annual Canyon Snowball** – Have a ball (or throw one) at the 4th Annual Canyon Snowball on February 8, at the Canyon Blister Rust Camp. A chili dinner and cocktail hour start at 6:30 p.m. with dancing and other whoopla beginning at 7:30 p.m. Beverages, chili and eating utensils provided. Potluck dishes optional. Donations accepted. Please RSVP to Canyon Rangers for dinner and/or overnight accommodations.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rocky's Retirement Sale: GE answering machine, \$25; Fisher GTS telemark skis, (210) with Chouinard Riva bindings, used less than 50 miles, \$300 new/asking \$200; two pair of NPS green jeans (brand new), 34" waist, extra long at \$5/ea; ground-mounted clay bird thrower, \$25; World War II Pocket Coleman camp stove, \$5. Call Jean or Rocky at 344-7452.

For Sale: K2 175's, 2 years old, Nordica Nertech 55's, 2 years old, Solomon Serie 6, adjustable bindings, total price for entire package: \$200/OBO. All items are in great shape. Call Robert Perry at 344-9272.

For Sale: Health Rider—approximately 1 1/2 years old in excellent condition. Asking only \$200 (\$500 new), an AB and Back machine — asking \$50. Call 344-7927 after 5 p.m.

For Sale: Oak china hutch with glass. Good condition. \$275. Apple computer II s1, 5/40 with full page Monitor & software. \$499. Call 344-7349 after 5 p.m.

For Sale: Chest freezer, 15.6 CF (34 3/4" H x 44" W x 30" D), looks bad but works fine, \$75. Zenith console television, 25" screen, cable ready, walnut cabinet, excellent condition, \$50. Lazyboy recliner, looks good, doesn't recline but is okay upright, FREE. Call Paul or Gail at 344-7406 after January 27.

For Sale: 1995 Polaris 500 EFI. 1,000 miles, make an offer. Call 646-4862 any time.

For Sale: Kingsize waterbed with underbed storage compartments. \$150. Solid oak table with two leaves, formica top with two arm chairs and two straight chairs, rattan seats. \$200 for the set. solid oak buffet, \$75. Solid oak rocker, \$50. 7 1/2" Tomlinson couch (needs recovering), \$100. Backswing (for inverted stretching), \$50. Call Dorothy at 344-7441.

For Sale: Soloflex w/leg & butterfly, seldom used, will sacrifice, \$350 OBO. Macintosh IIsi, 5/40 with full page display monitor, \$500, OBO. Call 344-7349 after 5 p.m.

Room for Rent in Gardiner: Quiet, fully furnished, must like cats, temporary or seasonal, \$250 per month. Also—Wanted to Buy: Toyota Tercel or Subaru wagon, 4WD. Good condition, high miles okay. Call 848-2270, leave message.

Lost: A topper off a pick-up truck at the 15 mm on the evening of Jan. 23. If found or you know of its whereabouts, please call Jean at 344-2002 or 344-7750.