

The

YELLOWSTONE

News



July 7, 1995

NPS Employee Newsletter

Next Deadline: July 19

Lightning Strikes Employee

NPS employee Grant Gifford, a Utility Systems Operator at Grant Village, was struck by lightning while fishing at Slough Creek Thursday evening. Gifford believed the lightning struck his rod and the force of the current flipped him several feet. He then hiked to his car and drove himself to the Mammoth Clinic. After initial treatment there, he was transported by ambulance to the hospital in Livingston, Montana.

Gifford was treated for leg injuries and was held overnight for observation. He was released from the hospital early Friday morning and is recuperating at his home in Mammoth.

Ranger Applications Due Soon

Winter seasonal Park Ranger application packets are available in the Personnel Office. Although Yellowstone does not utilize this register, the information with the applications will tell you which regions and/or parks do. The deadline for application is July 15.

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP)

The TSP Open Season continues through July 31, 1995. Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System or Federal Employees' Retirement System may enroll in TSP or change their contributions.

Library Open for Kids

Kids--Reading's Fun in the Summer, Too! The Mammoth School Library will be open on Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. until July 26. Come on in to read or to check out books. This library time is part of the SumFun Program sponsored by the Mammoth School. For information, call Ginny at 344-2258 or 848-7008.

Let's Play Tennis!

If anyone's interested in finding out names and phone numbers of tennis players and/or to compete on a tennis ladder, call Carrie at 848-7528. All skill levels invited!

Earthquakes Shake Park

The Public Affairs Office has received some inquiries from park staff asking for information on the recent earthquake activity the park has been experiencing. Since Friday, increased activity has been recorded near Mt. Haynes. It's not uncommon for Yellowstone to experience earthquake activity, but this is the most intense concentration of tremors detected in the park for more than a decade. Over a 24-hour period (Sunday, July 2), close to 1,500 tremors were recorded; another 700 tremors were recorded during a seven-hour period on Tuesday. The tremors, registering 1.0-2.5 on the Richter Scale, were too weak to be felt by people. Only one, a Sunday shake which registered 3.1, was large enough for people to feel, although it probably went unnoticed in the park. Geologists are not sure what is causing the trembling, but they caution there is no cause for concern. The most current information shows the swarm of earthquakes has decreased.

It is unclear what is causing this latest activity. The activity is coming from the side of the caldera that has magma deposits; the magma may be flowing and filling dikes. Or there could be increased activity along the fault line that runs from near Midway Geyser Basin to Hebgen Lake (the same fault responsible for a swarm of earthquakes recorded in 1985). The 1985 tremors triggered changes in Yellowstone's hot springs and geysers, but so far the current earthquake swarm has not.

Park Author To Sign Books

There will be an autograph party for Lee Whittlesey's new book "Death in Yellowstone" on Monday, July 10 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Mammoth Hotel lobby. Lee's other books will also be available for sale. If you already have books that were written by Lee, bring them by and he will be happy to autograph them as well.

Observations On The NPS

"The most valuable asset the Service has ever had is the morale of its employees. I have said that the Superintendent is a dedicated man; all his permanent staff and all the temporary rangers and ranger-naturalists are dedicated men, too...or they would have quit long ago since. Ever since it was organized, the service has been able to do its difficult, complex, and highly expert job with great distinction because it could count on this ardor and devotion.

The forty-hour week means nothing in a national park. Personnel have always worked 16 hours a day and seven days a week whenever such labor was necessary. Superintendent, rangers, engineers, summer staff, fire lookouts - they all drop their specialties to join a garbage-disposal crew or a rescue party, to sweep up tourist litter, to clean a defouled spring, to do anything else that has to be done but can't be paid for. They are the most courteous and the most patient men in the United States and maybe once a week several of them get a full night's sleep. If you undermine their morale, you will destroy the service."

Historian Bernard, *Harper's Magazine*, 1953

[Editor's note: Devoto wrote at a time when almost all staff were in fact men. His perspective in 1995 would undoubtedly be more balanced].

Immunization Information

Hepatitis B vaccine is now available through the Montana Immunization Program. Please contact the Mammoth Clinic for an appointment or information. Call 344-7965.

Recreation Activities in Full-Swing

The Co-Op Recreation Department reports that their park activities are up and running along smoothly. A live Bluegrass band will be performing in the park the week of July 10 through the 14. Don't forget all the other recreation activities including kayak lessons, employee photography contests, DJ dances, moonlight hikes, movie nights, Frisbee golf tournaments, talent shows, etc. Join in the fun this summer!

Antelope Fawn Escape

Paul Miller Recounts this Observation

On Tuesday, June 27, at 5 p.m., Gibbs Smith and I were 1/3 mile south of the north entrance kiosk on the old Gardiner road. The area is open, mostly flat from the road west for 100 yards, then slants up. A small fawn antelope was running downhill toward us about 150 yards away. An adult female and male antelope followed at about 40 feet, and a coyote followed the two adults at another 50 feet. We stopped to make sure it was a coyote and not a domestic dog. The fawn ran in a square in front of us with legs of the square measuring about 1/8 mile. When the fawn turned, it was close to 90 degree angles, whereas the coyote was swinging way out and around, consequently losing distance.

The fawn appeared to tire and slow down. The coyote closed to within 20 feet of the fawn, and both adult antelope dropped behind the coyote. When the coyote was about 10 feet behind the fawn, one adult antelope ran over the top of the coyote at a slight angle off the running direction. I couldn't see if the antelope hit the coyote when it went over it or just distracted the coyote. Each of the three times the adult antelope ran over the coyote, the fawn put distance between itself and the coyote.

The coyote continued to give chase. When the coyote was about three feet behind the fawn, I heard a bleat from one of the adults, and the fawn did a sharp 90 degree turn gaining distance again from the coyote which swung wide on the turn. A herd of about 10 adult antelope ran downhill right through the fawn, coyote, and two adult group. At that time I heard another antelope bleat. The fawn dropped and hid. One of the 10 antelope joined the first two adults and ran the coyote off, taking turns running over the coyote.

Equipment Swap Nears

Thinking of upgrading your outdoor equipment? The Co-Op Employee Recreation Department is already planning an outdoor equipment swap this fall. The date has tentatively been set for Saturday, September 9 in the Mammoth gym. It's not too early to begin thinking of the items you just don't need, or would like to replace. So, set aside your cross-country skis, car racks, water filters, etc. Look for more information as the date gets closer.

The Yellowstone News is a bi-weekly newsletter for NPS Yellowstone employees published by the Public Affairs Office. To submit articles, ads, or notice of events contact:

Jan Laye, Editor, 344-2003

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale:

16 1/2 ft. Fiberform tri-hull boat, 70 horse Evinrude motor, easyload trailer. Licensed for '95 and ready to go! \$2250. Also, 1970 Chinook motor home, 22 ft., Dodge chassis, 318 engine. Good tires and paint. \$5,000. 1985 Lincoln Town Car, signature series, good shape, smooth and comfortable ride! \$5500. Call Al at 848-7798 after 6 p.m. or weekends to make a deal.

For Sale:

1985 Hacienda 14 x 70 mobile home. Four bedrooms, all appliances included. Lots of extras and is in great shape. Call 344-7952.

Students Wanted:

I'm now accepting students for voice and piano lessons. Contact Ellen (Stephenson) Fraizer at 848-7171 (leave message).

Wanted to Buy or Rent:

Truck camper for first two weeks in August. Call Ralph at 344-7419.

Service Offered:

Do you need your dog walked? Call Brigitte or Ross at 344-7439.

Wanted:

Does anyone have bicycles to loan or sell? Also wanted, a used, reliable, and inexpensive vehicle. If you are selling, please call Maria or Sam at 344-7439.

For Sale:

Two 1993 Polaris Trail Indy Deluxe snowmobiles with two place trailer. \$6,000, OBO. Call Kris at 848-7679 or 848-7506.

For Sale:

Almost new hiking boots 5.10 Wildebeast, men's size 10 and women's size 8. \$30 each. Call 344-9272.

For Sale:

Pivelta hiking boots, size 6 1/2N (fits woman 7 1/2), almost new, \$50. New Justin western boots, size 7B (run large) \$50. Call 344-2152.

For Sale:

Entertainment unit, \$25 OBO. Kitchen table (round) and three chairs with cushions, \$50 OBO. Call 344-7733.

For Sale:

Trailer hitch kit for Jeep Wagoneer/Cherokee, etc. \$50. Call Kate at 344-5317 or 848-7169 evenings.

Will Trade For?

Travertine pieces, some with cut and polished surfaces, some not. Various sizes to about 30 lbs. About 1/3 of a pick-up load weight wise. Call Stu Coleman at 344-2150.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

* Fly Fishing Clinic

On Saturday, July 8, there will be a fly fishing clinic at the Gardiner School Football field. This clinic will begin at 9:30 a.m. and is open to all ages. A short fishing trip to Jaffe Lake will follow. For more information call Dennis Zafft at 344-7483 or John Hoak at 848-7325.

* Vet Visit

Veterinarian, Dr. Jim Murray, will be at the Gardiner Exxon on Friday, July 14, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary. Housecalls available upon request. Next visit: July 28.

* Mammogram Program in Park

Mammograms are your best defense against cancer. Salt Lake City Regional Medical Center Mobile Mammography Unit will be at Mammoth Hot Springs on Tuesday, July 25 and at Lake on Wednesday, July 26. For more information call 344-2204. Sponsored by the Yellowstone National Park Federal Women's Program.

* Jackson Hole Moose Chase Marathon

All those who wish to enter the Jackson Hole Moose Chase Marathon should register by September 7, 1995. The race will be taking place on Saturday, September 9, 1995 at 9:00 a.m. For further information contact the Teton County/Jackson Parks and Recreation Department at (307) 733-5056. Registration forms are available from Laura Long, Mammoth Administration.