

The Yellowstone News

FILE



September 26, 2002

Next Deadline: October 17, 2002

SQUAD MEETINGS MOVE TO INTERIOR LOCATIONS

Dear Yellowstone Employees:

At our management focus session a few weeks ago, we discussed the effectiveness of our squad meetings and are planning a few changes. On the first Tuesday of every month, the squad will be meeting at an interior park location. Safety Executive Council meetings will follow these squad meetings. Squad meetings are always open and we encourage at least the district and sub-district supervisors to join us. If you have things you think would benefit the whole squad to look at in your area, please let me know ahead of time.

Here is the tentative schedule for the first three months:

Tuesday, October 1	9:30 a.m.	Grant Village
Tuesday, November 5	9:30 a.m.	Canyon
Tuesday, December 3	9:30 a.m.	West Yellowstone

We will schedule the remaining locations at the December meeting. Please let me know if your location would like to host a squad meeting and some possible things you would like us to look at in the afternoon. Thank you.

Frank Walker
Assistant Superintendent

SAFETY CORNER

There were three Safety Hazard Awareness Reporting Program (**SHARP**) winners in August:

Patrick Matheny and **Ed Roe** share an award. They teamed up and suggested that material-handling equipment should be purchased to make the job of dumping 55-gallon waste oil drums safer.

Willie Burkhardt won for calling attention to the roadway hazard by the jail. People accessing the jail tend to park in front of the door, narrowing the traffic path on the roadway. This causes southbound traffic to enter the northbound lane, which curves left, creating the potential for a head-on collision.

Coming soon...the name of the grand prize winner! Keep the good ideas flowing! Our safety is our number one priority.

YELLOWSTONE ROAD UPDATE

Construction from Madison Junction to Norris Junction:

September 3 - November 3

Weekdays: Open 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. with possible delays of up to 30 minutes.

Closed 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

Weekends: Open 6:00 a.m. Saturday to 10:00 p.m. Sunday with possible delays of up to 30 minutes.

Fall Park Road Closures:

October 15

Dunraven Pass (Tower Fall to Canyon) closes.

November 4, 8:00 a.m.

All park roads close with the exception of the North Entrance to the Northeast Entrance, which remains open year-round to automobile traffic. This road is subject to temporary closures, and chains or snow tires may be required at times due to hazardous winter driving conditions.

Winter Season Road Openings:

Yellowstone is scheduled to open to oversnow vehicles on Wednesday, December 18 depending on sufficient snow and conditions.

The Yellowstone News is a monthly National Park Service employee newsletter that is published by the Public Affairs Office. Submit articles, notices of events, announcements, and classified ads, by calling 344-2013, faxing to 344-2014, emailing to Yell_Public_Affairs@nps.gov, sending via interdepartmental mail or mailing to P.O. Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming 82190.

Announcements

Veterinarian Visit

Dr. James Murray, DVM of Livingston will be at the Gardiner Exxon on October 4 and every other Friday thereafter. Call (406) 222-3700 if you would like to schedule an appointment for a home visit.

Buffalo Days

The Buffalo Days Committee would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming support on August 24 with the Gardiner Ambulance fundraiser. A big "thank you" to the communities and surrounding areas of Gardiner and Mammoth. With your support we were able to present a donation in the amount of \$6,000.00 to the Gardiner Ambulance Service. We could not have done it without the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Once again, people have shown their support and true sense of community spirit for a very worthy cause.

Farewells

David Hubbard, Old Faithful night shift patrol ranger is leaving the National Park Service for a Special Agent position with the Fish and Wildlife Service. David worked seasonally in Yellowstone several years before accepting a permanent position in Everglades National Park in 1998. He transferred back to Yellowstone in 2001. We wish David well.

Come and say goodbye (again!) to Chris Miller, Heavy Equipment Operator, North District, on Thursday, October 3 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mammoth Garage. Donations of food and money will be appreciated. We wish Chris the best and hope he'll be back!

General Services Administration

Yellowstone National Park has begun selling surplus government personal property on the U.S. General Services Administration's (GSA) web site www.gsaauctions.gov. Viewers can bid on "live" on-line auctions. Yellowstone will NOT be holding an on-site live auction in the fall 2002, as in previous years. Items for sale will be posted on this web site on a continual basis. Items will include such things as vehicles, snowmobiles, boats, outboard motors, computers, horse trailers, sea kayaks, and other miscellaneous items. This web site includes information and auction procedures. For additional information not found on this web site, please contact the Yellowstone Property Office at (307) 344-2084 or 2085.

The Electric Peak Arts Council Presents....

The big Sound of **Fabuki Daiko** will perform Friday, November 1, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gardiner School Multi-use Room. This Canadian group combines the traditional art form of Japanese drumming with rigorous choreography -- part martial arts, part meditation and all rhythm -- to produce their own style. The cost for this performance is \$10.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and \$35.00 for families. Tickets are available at the door. Don't miss this truly "global spectacle." This program is partially funded by the Western States Arts Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Fall Health Screen

Good health is a daily choice and as the seasons change, it's a perfect time to ensure yours by getting a blood profile. The Livingston Wellness Center will hold the fall health screen in the Gardiner School cafeteria on Wednesday, October 16 from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. The costs for the tests are as follows:

Blood Profile Testing (diabetes, thyroid, kidney, liver, cholesterol screening and more)	\$35.00
Prostate Specific Antigen (Optional Blood Screening for Males)	\$18.00
ColoCare Kits	\$ 4.00

The blood profile test requires fasting -- nothing but water after 8:00 p.m. the night before. For more information, call (406) 222-8282.

Political Activity (Hatch Act) and Time off for Voting

The following provides general guidance governing permitted and non-permitted political activities under the Hatch Act amendments, which establish provisions for all Federal employees. The general provisions for all federal employees are of primary concern during this election season and are repeated below.

Federal employees:

MAY	MAY NOT
Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections (where none of the candidates are running as representatives of a partisan political party)	Be candidates for public office in partisan elections (where candidates are identified by party)
Register and vote in any election	Use government funds to support political activity
Contribute money to political organizations and attend political fund raising functions	Be granted leave without pay to work on a political campaign
Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings	Use official title, authority, or influence to interfere with an election
Assist in voter registration drives	Solicit or receive political contributions (with limited specific exceptions)
Sign nominating petitions	Engage in political activity while on duty
Be paid for political work they do on their own time	Engage in political activity in any government office
Express personal opinions about candidates and issues	Wear political buttons while on duty or in government buildings
Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, municipal ordinance, etc.	Knowing solicit or discourage political activity of anyone with business before their agency
Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections	Display partisan political posters in their offices
Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections	Engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections	Engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform
Hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention	Engage in political activity while using government property

All permitted political activities must be pursued on the Federal employee's own time. For more information, including questions and answers on political issues, check the Department of Interior's guidance on the Hatch Act at the following internet site: <http://www.doi.gov/ethics/political.html>.

Employees may not use government computers to vote in partisan elections at any time because government property cannot be used for political activity per 5 USC 7321-7326 and 5 CFR 733 and 734.

With the upcoming partisan elections, you may have questions concerning excused absences for the purpose of voting. Where polls are not open at least three (3) hours either before or after an employee's regular work hours, the employee may be granted an amount of excused leave which will permit the employee to report for work three (3) hours after the polls open or leave work 3 hours before the polls close, whichever requires the lesser amount of time. An employee's "regular work hours" are to be determined by reference to the time of day the employee normally arrives at and departs from work.

The current policies under the alternative work schedule and flexible workplace program allow employees many options in scheduling time to vote. Employees are able to schedule their work hours to allow sufficient time to vote, or they may also elect to vote by mail ballot. Under certain conditions, excused absence may be granted for voting registration and when the voting site is beyond normal commuting distance.

Employees should contact their supervisor if their work schedule does not allow them the time to have the opportunity to vote.

Questions on the Hatch Act may also be referred to the Region's Assistant Ethics Counselors: John Crowley, Assistant Regional Director, Human Resources at 303-969-2506, Cathy Leach, Employee Relations Officer, Intermountain Region at 303-969-2522 and Imogene Anaya Human Resources Officer, Intermountain Support Office at 505-988-6062.

Karen P. Wade
Director, Intermountain Region

Personnel News Continued...

Congratulations to the following past and present employees for their outstanding achievements:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Former Yellowstone Superintendent Mike Finley recently received a Distinguished Service Award from the Department of the Interior for his leadership in resource preservation and service to the employees and visitors to the national parks of this Nation, as well as other contributions.

The Distinguished Service Award, the highest Department of the Interior honor award granted to a career employee, was established in 1948. Employees are granted the Distinguished Service Award based on an outstanding contribution to science; an outstanding skill or ability in the performance of duty; an eminent career in the Department; an outstanding contribution to equal opportunity in Government; an outstanding contribution to energy conservation; or any other exceptional contribution to public service.

BURLINGAME-TOOLE AWARD

Montana: The Magazine of Western History has named Yellowstone Center for Resources' Alice Wondrak the winner of the Burlingame-Toole award. This award is given each year to the author of the best article submission by a college student. This year it will be presented in October at the annual meeting of the Montana Historical Society in Havre, Montana. Alice's winning submission, "Wrestling with Horace Albright: Edmund Rogers, Visitors, and Bears in Yellowstone," will be published in two parts, beginning with the Autumn 2002 issue of *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*.

FREEMAN TILDEN AWARD NOMINEE

Katy Duffy was selected as the Rocky Mountain Cluster nominee for the Freeman Tilden Award for interpretive excellence. Kay was nominated for her outstanding work in putting together the public educational components of the Winter Pilot Program which included the volunteer program, roving interpreters, the educational outreach program in 12 West Yellowstone hotels, the step-on bus program from Big Sky, and other interpretive and educational components of the Winter Pilot Program.

Classified Ads

Rag Time Quilt Class: Have you always wanted to make a quilt but just didn't know where to start? Here is your chance! Join us in the Canteen Room A on Tuesday evenings, October 8-29 at 7:00 p.m. for a Rag Time Quilt Class. Learn to make this old-fashion cozy quilt using new and easy techniques. The class is for all levels of quilters, especially beginners. For more information or to sign up, call Colleen Watson at 344-9266.

For Sale: Cool deal on snow tires! Four Cooper P165/80 M/S studded snow tires. Fit a Subaru Loyale. Used only one season and have plenty of tread remaining. \$40.00. Call Carolyn at (307) 344-2449 (w) or (406) 848-2270 (h).

For Sale: Got TiVo? Winter is coming -- what better time to try out one of those new personal video recorders? TiVo allows you to record with the touch of a button, as well as to rewind, pause, and fast forward live TV. Watch everything according to your own schedule! Used for only 12 hours of recording. \$100.00. Call Alice at (406) 848-7962.

For Sale: Men's size 6N LLBean boots with rubber bottoms and 11" leather tops. \$10.00. Call Carol Koepcke at (307) 344-2061 (w) or (307) 344-9248 (h).

For Sale: 1991 Mitsubishi Montero 4WD SUV with 150,000 miles. AC, power windows and locks, towing package and Thule rack. \$2900.00 firm (this is below book). Call Richard at (307) 242-2619.

For Sale: Gregory day-and-a-half backpack, forest green/black, internal suspension system, well padded shoulder straps, extra side pockets (never used), top load, top compartment converts to a fanny pack. Gregory rain cover included. Designed for a small adult or larger child. Very good condition. \$40.00. Call Mary at (307) 242-7656 (h) or (307) 242-2651 (w).

For Sale: Sleeper sofa with dark green slip cover. \$40.00. Call 344-2429.

Lost: Small black and gray dog with white markings. Poodle/Australian Shepherd cross, but looks more like a Poodle. Very bony and limps on 3 legs. 16 years old. Had collar and tags when he wandered away from home. Reward for information leading to his whereabouts. Please contact April at (406) 848-7351.

National Park Service Personnel News

Welcome to Yellowstone:

Kathy Tustanowski-Marsh
Budget Analyst Office
From Nez Perce National Historical Park
EOD 10/06/02

Permanent Appointments:

Sean McEldery
Lead Forestry Technician
Fire Cache
EOD 09/22/02

Kris Peters
Financial Support Technician
Administration Office
EOD 09/22/02

Eric Reinertson
Biological Science Technician
Yellowstone Center for Resources
EOD 09/22/02

Promotions:

Nancy Baum
Administrative Support Assistant
Chief Rangers' Office
EOD 09/22/02

Promotions continued:

Judi Mihan
Administrative Support Assistant
North District Rangers
EOD 09/22/02

Kevin Schneider
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Planning
EOD 09/15/02

Mary Taber
Supervisory Park Ranger
Canyon
EOD 09/22/02

Kim West
Administration Support Assistant
South District Office
EOD 09/22/02

Peer Award Recipients:

Sean Cahill
Tom Cawley
Kate McCoy
Roger Whiteside

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK SCHOOL NEWS

- ◆ School programs for "How-to-be-Safe" week are scheduled for September 30 and October 1. These programs will cover fire and wildlife, as well as school, bicycle and outdoor safety.
- ◆ The school will have residencies with various artists again this year. Kerry Corcoran will visit during the week of October 7.
- ◆ Please remind your children to be cautious of wildlife, especially elk, as they go to and from school. During the rut, going a different route, walking in large groups and giving the elk plenty of space are some ways to stay safe.
- ◆ A reminder to drivers: Please slow down, especially during the hours when students are walking to and from school. Also, please take note of the new "STOP" sign on the corner by the school. Thank you for considering our children's safety.