



Gardiner Chamber of Commerce Free Community Newsletter!

JANUARY 6TH, 2016 EDITION #1

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

YELLOWSTONE YOUTH DOING ACTS OF KINDNESS (Y2DAK) is looking for 12 new blood donors! January 15th the American Red Cross will be at the Yellowstone Association Conference room collecting much needed blood! First time donors (GHS Class of 2016), Xanterra winter employees, and former regular donors – start your year off right – Give Blood! Check out <http://www.redcross.org/mt/billings>. Need more information about the Y2DAK or the blood drive? Email Paul Helfrich pghelfrich@gmail.com Call or text 307-250-5879.

I AM A BUYER OF MONTANA HISTORY. Maps, Yellowstone Park, Tokens, Beer Trays, Mining Ribbons, Horr MT, Books, Old Montana signs and plenty more. Call David 579 3500.

THE GARDINER RESORT AREA DISTRICT monthly meeting will be Tuesday, January 12, at 7 p.m. at the Gardiner Visitor's Center.

KIDS ART CLASSES at Elk River Art in Gardiner - As a certified art teacher (K-12), I'd like to see if there is enough interest for a multi-media art education class (clay, paint, drawing, paper, etc. with some art history slipped in there too!) A 3 month session for 8 to 12 year olds, on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 5:15 pm in February, March and April – \$225 for the 3 month session + \$25 for supplies. You can see more of my work and education background at shirlireland.com Call or email me with any questions or interest.... Shirl Ireland 406-848-9449 or shirl@shirlireland.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Yellowstone Federal Credit Union year-end statements will be mailed in early January. **This statement includes all of your YFCU tax information for 2015** (such as year-to-date dividend totals and Fair-Market values of IRAs). Keep an eye out for this important document!

THE JARDINE SKI RUN is coming on February 28th. Same agenda, lots of prizes, good food and fun for all! Put it on your calendar! Questions? Call Phil at 307-344-5237 or 848-7667. **See you there!**

TWO BIT SALOON.... Breakfast, Burgers, Beer... Winter Opening Hours: Join us for breakfast, Monday-Friday 9:30 am, Saturday and Sunday 8:30am... Morning Medicine is our specialty! Come watch your favorite sporting event with us. \$2 Tacos on NFL Sunday. Homemade soup and Wings are Back. Pool League Thursday. Come taste our new Micro Drafts.

“FEED THE CAT – FEED THE DOG” Free winter pet food is available now through april 30th, 2016. Anyone interested in this service show up on a Monday 11:00am-4:30pm at 104 Vista St., Site B, Red porch, knock on gate. Thanks to Livingston Spur Line ranch store, we have more quality cat & dog food this year. No paper-work necessary. 406-848-9491, Jo A. Hudson.

“CHRISTMAS COVERS” carried out six Christmas giveaways in Park County this season: Livingston Food Resource Center (on the street), Loaves & Fishes, Meals on Wheels, Senior Prize Bingo (sponsorship), Gardiner's Lunch 4 You at our elders outreach and Feed the Cat – Feed the Dog. We are pleased to have “worked for Christmas” in our small way. Happy New Year Everyone. C.C. 406-848-9491.

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: Someone's pet chinchilla. Please call 406-220-2696 to claim him, or if you are interested in adopting him. He will come with his cage that we got for him.

VACATION RENTAL

VACATION RENTAL HOME - Elk River Lodge at Yellowstone. 2 bedroom, 2 full bath, queen beds, fully furnished kitchen, laundry, Wi-Fi. 2 Blocks to Yellowstone Entrance. Contact [VRBO.com #286380](http://VRBO.com/#286380). See our reviews! Comfort with Excellence. Low Season Special Rates.

HOUSING NEEDED

HOUSING NEEDED: Non-smoking, quiet, empty-nest couple searching for a year-round home to rent in the Gardiner area. We are year-round employees with two dogs (will gladly provide references for our dogs). Please call Leslie 386-490-5995 or email lgeverett71@gmail.com

The Gardiner Chamber of Commerce serves our community through developing local tourism while endorsing the stewardship of the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Help Wanted

DYNAMIC GUIDE WANTED. All year work available, hours vary. Research/writing assistance. EOE.
Send resume to discoverwolfbear@aol.com.

Thank You

THANK YOU so much for all the love and support that you gave Mrs. Kay and I. She loved all the visits, stories and food... You made her last days happy. I am getting back on track and opening the Wagon Wheel again. Come by and visit, I miss all of you! Thank you again, Dianna.

THANK YOU Gardiner for helping me find my birthday money and thank you for finding the time to make my holiday special. From Pray.

THANK YOU to Laura Williams and Laundress Lacey at Tub & Suds (our big laundromat) for their generous donations to Christmas Covers, one being professionally washing several bags of second hand blankets, sweaters, vests, hats & scarves, and bringing them back to life. This was such a big help and the same "thanks" goes to last year's generosity. C.C. 406-848-9491.

THANK YOU to Clare Cloghessey our Gardiner Angel Tree "Caregiver" who works overtime for Christmas. Your efforts are appreciated by everyone of us. "Happy New Year".

THANK YOU to Linda Grey for her hard work at the Gardiner Food Pantry and the other giving projects she is involved with. You have helped me this year and in the past, and I very much appreciate you caring.
Jo Hudson.

States divvy up Yellowstone-area grizzly hunt

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Wildlife officials have divvied up how many grizzly bears can be killed by hunters in the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho as the states seek control of a species shielded from hunting for the past 40 years, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

The region's grizzlies have federal protections, but that could change in coming months, turning control over to the states. The AP obtained a draft agreement detailing the states' plans for the animals.

The deal puts no limits on grizzly bear hunting outside a 19,300-square-mile management zone centered on Yellowstone National Park. Inside the zone, which includes wilderness and forest lands near the park, hunters in Wyoming would get a 58 percent share of the harvest, a reflection that it's home to the bulk of the region's bears. Montana would get 34 percent, and Idaho, 8 percent.

The management zone has an estimated minimum 717 grizzly bears. There is no estimate of how many live outside the area, although the number is increasing as they expand into new habitat, biologists say.

Wildlife advocates say the bear population remains too small to withstand much hunting. That's a particular concern given the large numbers of bears already dying, including during surprise run-ins with hunters and after livestock attacks that prompt officials to trap and kill problem bears.

In 2015, at least 59 Yellowstone-area grizzlies were believed to have been killed or trapped and removed by government agencies. That's the most since the animal received protection under the Endangered Species Act in 1975.

Despite the deaths, state officials say the grizzly population has recovered from excessive hunting and trapping that exterminated grizzlies across most of the U.S. in the early 1900s. The officials have increased pressure on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Director Dan Ashe in recent months to revoke the animal's threatened status.

Directors of the three states' wildlife agencies told Ashe in a Dec. 4 letter that such a step was long overdue.

"It is critically important that we capitalize on our tremendous progress and momentum ... by proceeding with a long overdue delisting" of bears from the threatened species list, the directors wrote. It was signed by Idaho Fish and Game Director Virgil Moore; Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Jeff Hagener; and Wyoming Game and Fish Director Scott Talbott.

Wildlife advocates and some bear researchers dispute government claims that the Yellowstone bear population is stable or increasing. A closer look at the trends suggests it's actually in decline, said David Mattson, a former grizzly researcher with the U.S. Geological Survey.

"All indicators are we have a population that's in trouble," Mattson said Monday. "It boggles my mind that people would consider going down this path that could consist of implementing a sport hunt."

.....Continued on page 4



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\$6.99
ea.

Asst. Bugles, Gardettos, Chex Mix
6-8.75 oz.

Snacks

2/\$3



2/\$4

Asst. Dole 5-12 oz.
Greens and Blends
Salad



\$3.99 ea. Bar S 16 Pack.
Corn Dogs



Asst. Yoplait 6 oz.
Yogurt

10/\$6

Asst. Lean Cuisine 6-11.5 oz.

Entrees

5/\$10



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Grizzlies *continued from page 2*

Mattson said he retired in 2013 in part so he could be more vocal on the issue of protecting bears. He helps run a blog called Grizzly Times, which he co-founded with his wife, Montana wildlife activist Louisa Wilcox.

Legal hunting of Yellowstone-area grizzlies last occurred in the 1970s.

At least 58 bears were killed in Montana and Idaho in the five years leading up to a prohibition on hunting in 1975. Historical harvest figures for Idaho were not available.

Any future hunts would be conservative and need approval from wildlife commissioners following a public comment period, said Quentin Kujala, chief of wildlife management for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks.

The size of each harvest would be on a sliding scale, with the intention of keeping the bear population viable and avoiding the need to reinstate federal protections, Kujala said. More hunting would be possible when the population tops 675 bears, and hunting would be largely barred if the number falls below 600.

"We're definitely not talking about a large number. We're not talking hundreds or anywhere near that," Wyoming Game and Fish spokesman Renny MacKay said.

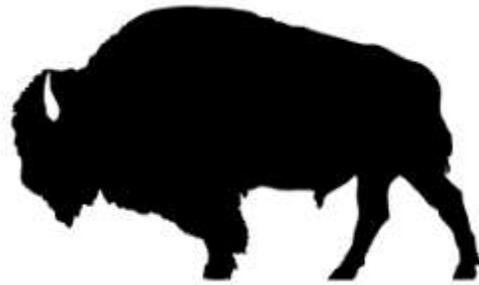


A decision on whether protections should be lifted is due early this year, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Barring a successful court challenge, it would take approximately a year for such a rule to go into effect.

The pending agreement between the states is not required for federal protections to be lifted, state officials said.

Access to Stephens Creek Facility

The National Park Service (NPS) will provide access for representatives of media organizations, public interest groups, and public officials to visit the Stephens Creek facility. There will be two different organized opportunities: 1) a scheduled tour in January and 2) two subsequent opportunities to observe processing and shipping operations. These opportunities are not open to the general public.



On behalf of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP), the Stephens Creek facility operates northwest of Gardiner, Montana. The facility is used to capture, sort, test, and temporarily hold bison. This year, according to the IBMP operations plan, operations will begin no earlier than February 15. For public, employee, and operation safety reasons, the Stephens Creek facility is closed to the public year-round.

Please refer to the park news release, [IBMP Partners Agree on Bison Management Operations](#) for additional background information. Participants should consult the bison management overview and Q&A videos at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/naturescience/bisonmgnt.htm> in advance of the tour.

Tour

The tour of the facility will take place on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. Since the tour will occur prior to February 15, no bison will be present inside the facility. On this tour, participants will see the facility and hear from subject matter experts about how bison are moved through the facility. The tour will be approximately one hour in duration. Space will be limited, so a maximum of two representatives per organization are allowed. Half of the slots on the tour will be held for the media.

Meet in the parking lot of the Heritage Resource Center near the Roosevelt Arch in Gardiner, MT. Those participating in the tour will be transported by bus to and from the Stephens Creek facility. The bus will depart at 9:45 am. At the conclusion of the tour, participants will be returned to the parking area by approximately 11:30 am. Participants should be prepared for cold, icy, and/or muddy conditions. The tour may be delayed or cancelled due to weather or emergency situations. RSVP with the names and affiliations of those intending to participate – as well as the names of any alternates – by noon MST January 14 to YELL_Public_Affairs@nps.gov.

Viewing Opportunities

Two opportunities to observe processing and shipping will take place between February 15 and March 15, 2016. This is not a tour and subject matter experts will not be available for questions. Viewing will be from a designated area. Specific dates cannot be scheduled in advance due to the highly unpredictable nature of bison movements. Meeting times will be 6:30 am in order to be in place for the start of operations. Space will be limited, so a maximum of two representatives per organization are allowed. Half of the slots will be held for the media. RSVP now with the names and affiliations of those intending to participate to Yell_Public_Affairs@nps.gov. When viewing opportunities are planned, those on the list will be apprised of meeting times and locations, and asked to confirm attendance. 72 hour notice will be our goal, but it may be less than 48 hours in advance of these opportunities.



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Visit www.yellowstonefcu.org or call (307) 344-7974 to start your year off right today!



We want to hear from you!

Please join us to discuss the health needs and issues of Park County:

Monday, January 11, 2015 | 6:00 PM | Gardiner Community Center



Questions? Call 406-823-6648.

www.LivingstonHealthCare.org

This Community Health Needs Assessment focus group is hosted by Livingston HealthCare and the MSU Extension Office. This process helps our community understand what health services are needed and engages the community in strengthening the healthcare system.

IBMP Partners Agree on Bison Management Operations

Members of the Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) have signed a winter operations plan that aims to reduce the current population of 4,900 animals. Because the Yellowstone bison population has high reproductive and survival rates, it will be necessary to cull 600-900 animals to offset the population increase expected this year. IBMP managers will decrease the population using two methods:

- (1) Public and tribal hunting outside the park, and
- (2) Capturing bison near the park boundary and then transferring them to Native American tribes for processing and distribution of meat and hides to their members.

Bison are a migratory species and they move across a vast landscape. When they are inside Yellowstone, they have access to all habitat. But in the winter, when some bison migrate to lower elevations outside the park in search of food, the surrounding states and some private landowners don't offer the same access to habitat. Wild bison are only allowed in limited areas outside of Yellowstone because some are infected with the disease brucellosis that can be transmitted to cattle. Also, there are human safety and property damage concerns in some areas. The size of the population and the level of tolerance outside the park are two issues often debated by the IBMP partners and their constituents.

"Many people are uncomfortable with the practice of culling bison, including the National Park Service," says Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk. "The park would gladly reduce the frequency and magnitude of these operations if migrating bison had access to more habitat outside the park or there was a way to transfer live bison elsewhere."

Currently, it is against state and federal laws to move any wild bison exposed to brucellosis anywhere except to approved meat processing or research facilities. The park is currently studying the feasibility of developing quarantine facilities for bison, which would allow animals that repeatedly test negative for brucellosis to be sent alive to other public, private, or tribal lands for conservation, hunting, or food production.

Capture operations will occur at the Stephens Creek facility near the park's North entrance. This facility is operated on behalf of all IBMP partners to meet population reduction objectives. For safety reasons, the facility is closed to the public year-round. Under this year's IBMP operations plan, capture will begin no earlier than February 15, 2016 and will cease no later than March 31, 2016.

In 1995, Montana sued the National Park Service because bison were migrating out of the park onto state lands. A court-mediated settlement was reached in 2000 creating the [Interagency Bison Management Plan \(IBMP\)](#). Today, the park and seven other partners (listed below) implement this plan, which was approved by the secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and the Montana governor.

The park and the state of Montana are working together to update the current bison management plan (IBMP). While the existing plan has been effective at preventing brucellosis transmission and maintaining a viable population, the park believes a new plan is needed. There is new data about general biology and disease prevalence, and public opinion is shifting toward more tolerance for bison in Montana. You can find more information about this planning process at the NPS PEPC website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/YELLBisonPlan>.

The cooperating agencies operating under the IBMP are the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Montana Department of Livestock, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the InterTribal Buffalo Council, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Information on the IBMP is available online at www.ibmp.info. Additional information about Yellowstone bison and their management can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/bisonmgnt.htm>.

National Park Service ranger-led programs (Free)

Mammoth

Program Descriptions	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Mammoth Snowshoe Discovery (December 22–February 23) Experience winter beauty on a guided snowshoe walk with a park ranger. <i>Snowshoes can be rented at the Bear Den ski shop next to the Mammoth Hotel, or bring your own.</i> Come prepared with warm, layered clothes, sunglasses, and water. Meet at the Upper Terrace Drive entrance parking area two miles south of Mammoth. Note: If there is a lack of snow, this will become a walk without snowshoes. Moderately strenuous. Beginners welcome! 2 hours.			1 PM 12/22–2/23				
Ecology of Yellowstone's Northern Range (December 21–February 24) The Northern Range of Yellowstone has always been a premier place to watch wildlife. Learn how all forms of life interact here and how this ecosystem has changed since the restoration of wolves. Meet in front of the Albright Visitor Center. ♿ Accessible. 30 minutes.		10 AM 12/21–2/29		10 AM 12/23–3/2		2 PM 12/25–3/4	2 PM 12/26–3/5
Stars Over Yellowstone (January 3 to February 14) Enjoy a short walk to a view of Yellowstone's pristine night sky. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Meet in front of Albright Visitor Center. ♿ Accessible. 30 minutes. Weather Permitting.	7 PM 1/3–1/17 7:30 PM 1/31–2/14						
Evening Program (December 24–February 27) Join a park ranger for an illustrated program that highlights a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone's natural, cultural, or scenic wonders. Program descriptions will be posted in the Mammoth Hotel and Albright Visitor Center. Meet in the Mammoth Hotel Map Room. ♿ Accessible. 1 hour.					8 PM 12/24–2/25	8 PM 12/25–2/26	8 PM 12/26–2/27



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CHURCH SERVICES

**St. John's Episcopal Church
(Emigrant):**
Sundays:
Worship 8am

**The Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints**
Sundays:
Sacrament Service 10am

St. Williams Catholic Church:
Sundays
11:00 am

Gardiner Baptist Church
Sundays:
Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 11am
Lunch 12noon, All welcome
Bible Study
Wednesday evening 6:30pm
Sunday evening 6:30pm

**Mt. Republic Chapel of Peace
(Cooke City):**
Sundays:
Worship 9:30am

Gardiner Community Church:
Sundays
11:15 am Gardiner
Community Church
10:15 am Sunday School for all
ages at Gardiner Community
Church
Bible Studies throughout the
community during the week,
contact Pastor Rob Spykstra
406-848-7300

COMMUNITY SERVICES & COMMITTEES

AA Meetings: Wednesday @ 7pm at St. William's Catholic Church. Contact 1-724-496-9894

American Legion
Meeting: 2nd Tuesday @ 7pm at the Gardiner Community Center.

Bear Creek Council
Meeting: 3rd Wednesday @ 7pm - For more information: 406-848-9445
www.bearcreekcouncil.org

Christmas Covers:
Serving Park County through our community projects. 406-848-9491
Jo Hudson.

Gardiner Food Pantry
Hours: Tuesdays from 1pm-6pm. 307.344.9006
Linda Gray.

Gateway Hose
Company Board of
Trustees Meeting:
January 18th, 2016
@ 7pm at the Fire Hall.

Electric Peak Arts
Council Meeting:
Sept-May, 1st Wednesday @ 5:30pm in the Gardiner High School Library.

Gardiner-Park County
Water District Board
Meeting: 2nd Tuesday @ 6pm at the District Office.

The Gardiner Resort
Area District monthly meeting is held every second Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Gardiner Visitor's Center.

G-Town Thrift Store
Thursdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 1-7pm located at the Community Church 318 W. Main St.

Gardiner Community
Library Tuesdays 10am-5pm, 6pm-8pm & Thursdays 6pm-8pm. 406.848.7835.

Gardiner School Board
Meeting: 2nd Wednesdays @ 7pm in the Gardiner School Conference Room.

Greater Gardiner
Community Council
Advisory Board Meeting: 2nd Tuesday @ 7:15pm.
www.gardinermt.org

Gardiner Chamber of
Commerce /
Visitor Center:
Mon- Tues 8:30am-5:00pm, Weds - Fri 8:30am-4:00pm. Closed Sat & Sun. Monthly Board meeting, 3rd Thursdays at noon. Located at 216 Park Street. 848-7971.

IF YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP OR COMMITTEE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO OUR LIST CALL THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT 848-7971 OR EMAIL ADS@GARDINERCHAMBER.COM

If you are feeling sad, as if no one cares or that life isn't worth living any more ...

Please - Call the Montana Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Someone does care~ They will listen to your story

Deadline for all newsletter ads is Tuesday before noon. NEWSLETTER ADS must be paid for in ADVANCE. There is no billing. Ads submitted without full payment will not be run.

Ads are \$7.00 for 40 words or less in paragraph form for non-chamber members and \$6.00/40 words for chamber members plus 10 cents for each additional word for members and non-members alike. Email or call for display ad pricing. 848-7971. Ads may be submitted by email to ads@gardinerchamber.com and/or by coming directly to the Chamber office at 216 Park Street during business hours. (there is an after hours drop box too!) If payment is required, then please drop off a copy of the ad with payment at the office or mail in advance to Gardiner Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 81 Gardiner, MT 59030.

It is helpful if you submit your ads before Tuesday. Ads CANNOT be placed over the telephone. Lost and Found, Free, Thank you, ads are free up to 40 words & .10cents/word over 40. Nonprofit status does not guarantee a free ad. Call if you have questions. phone 406.848.7971

The Gardiner Community Newsletter is sponsored by the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce. Its purpose is to inform local residents and visitors regarding items of local interest. Occasionally opinions are expressed herein that do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the Gardiner Chamber of Commerce.

THE CHAMBER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO OMIT OR EDIT ADS/COPY FOR LENGTH, GRAMMAR, GOOD TASTE AND TO PREVENT DEFAMATION.

