AUGUST 30, 2024



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BACK TO SCHOOL IS UPON US!

By the time this newsletter is released, our students, teachers, and staff will have completed their first day of school for the 2024-2025 school year. Even though school just started, our sport teams have been practicing and already trying to get back into gear for their seasons. This fall the Wolverines will be represented in Cross Country, High School Football, High School Volleyball, Junior High Football, and Junior High Volleyball. All games are subject to time change, so please check the school website for the most up-to-date times. Here are a few of the upcoming home games:

High School Football September 7th vs Alberton at 1:00 p.m.

September 28th vs Gardiner at 1:00 p.m.

High School Volleyball September 7th vs Shields Valley at 5:00 p.m.

September 13th vs Gardiner at 5:00 p.m.

September 19th vs White Sulphur Springs at 5:00 p.m.

Junior High Football September 21st vs Absarokee at 11:00 a.m.

Junior High Volleyball September 3rd vs Ennis at 4:00 p.m.

September 7th vs Shields Valley at 2:00 p.m. September 13th vs Gardiner at 3:30 p.m. September 14th Home Tournament TBD September 16th vs Willow Creek at 4:00 p.m. September 19th vs White Sulphur Springs TBD

We have new teachers this year that include Terry Roelfsema (Shop), Jordan Straub (High School Science), Adam Kaplan (High School English), Megan Mueller (Guidance Counselor), Bonnie Wood (Third Grade), Malyse Evans (Fifth Grade), and Lucus Eaton (Language). Also to note, Kati Holtzman has moved to be the Kindergarten teacher and Mimi Javier has moved to be the Second Grade teacher.

The school is still looking for the following positions:

Maintenance Director/Head Custodian

Custodian

Paraprofessional Classroom Aide 24-25 School Year

Paraprofessional Special Education Aide 24-25 School Year

After School Program Director 24-25 School Year

PT Food Service Worker 24-25 School Year

PT Crossing Guard

Substitute Teachers

If you'd like to apply please contact the school directly or go to their website.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

You can drop off school supplies at the school's office:

Glue

Paint Brushes

Kleenex

Crayons

Washable markers Colored pencils

#2 pencils

Scissors

Single subject notebooks

Erasers

Black sharpies

Assorted colored highlighters

Watercolor paints

Playdough

Hand sanitizer

Manual pencil sharpener

Expo dry erase markers

Two-pocket folders

Pens

Three ring binders

Water bottles

Headphones

Composition notebooks

Pencil boxes

Loose leaf paper

Tape

5 subject notebooks

Backpacks

We wish everyone the best school year!







More sponsorship opportunities are available NOW! Email for more info:

ADMIN@THEBESTOFWESTDIGEST.COM

GRACIE M SWANSON OBITUARY

Gracie M Swanson passed away June 26th 2024 at the Legacy Villages assisted living in St. George, UT. Gracie was born April 20 1932 in DeWitt Nebraska to Charles Albert Menke and Charlotte Isabell



Rosco, she was the baby of 13 children. Gracie spent her childhood life in Nebraska where she recalled stories of watching the young ship off to WW2, starting a paper route at a young age, working at a soda fountain in her local drug store and joining the cheer team at her High School. After graduating Gracie moved to Lincoln Nebraska where she worked at the Elgin watch factory. She enjoyed playing softball and vollevball and was voted by her peers to be Elgin's 'Vacation Girl' where she helped raise money for an iron lung machine that was used to treat polio. It was during this time she met Neal Swanson at A dance. Neal had been spending his summers working in Yellowstone National Park and one summer invited Gracie to visit him in Yellowstone and the rest is history. Gracie and Neal were married in Bozeman, MT spent their honeymoon Yellowstone. They settled down to married life in Lincoln Nebraska for a while, but the pull of Yellowstone was strong and they started spending summers back in Yellowstone running the Old Town Café. In the summer of 1959 Neal and Gracie had just returned back to West Yellowstone from the birth of their 3rd child when the 7.6 earthquake struck 6.5 miles WNW of town. In 1969 Neal and Gracie decided to move to West Yellowstone full time with their little family. Gracie and Neal eventually purchased the Old Town Café and welcomed locals and visitors into their life through food and great conversation. Gracie's enthusiasm for cross country skiing contributed greatly to the Swanson family effort to create the Rendezvous ski trails, the Rendezvous Race and the original fall camp. Gracie's life was full of adventure and loved exploring and traveling with all of her kids and grandchildren. She had a great love for the Lord and shared that love with her family. She is proceeded in death by her parents, siblings and husband. She is survived by her 3 Children. Jeanine (Randy), Kent (Jeannette), Carl (Anna) as well as 13 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren and 4 great great grandchildren. Memorial services will be held at the Community Protestant Church September 21st at 1pm.

BERNADINE P JOHNSON OBITUARY

Bernadine left this earth to begin her next adventure on the morning of June 11, 2024, surrounded by her loving family.

Bernadine was born on her family farm in Leroy, North Dakota, on October 2, 1920, to Catherine and Timothy Horgan. She was the youngest of eleven children. School and church were both in Leroy. She walked from their family farm to the one room schoolhouse in Leroy, where she would later return to take her first teaching position after acquiring her teaching certificate.



Bernadine gained her love for animals at a young age on the farm. She shared countless stories about her pet geese, chickens, ducks, and pigs, along with every other farm animal you would imagine. Riding horses bareback was one of her fondest childhood memories. Bernadine was no stranger to hard work; many times she told stories about picking spuds by hand with family and friends, earning 5 cents a bag. After a hard day of work, they would head to a barn dance and play even harder.

In 1950 while teaching in Hardin, MT, she met Bob Johnson and they were married on April 7th, 1951. Over the next eight years, Bernadine and Bob had their three children, Kathy, Little Bob, and Jerry. Bernadine never stopped teaching for the rest of her life, whether in a school, her living room or while eating breakfast at one of West's local cafes. Bernadine was a great story teller and loved doing it; "I have the floor" was her catch phrase when she was ready to begin a story. She really took joy in telling stories about the many students she taught throughout the years. She would light up while sharing those memories.

Also, in the early 50's, Bernadine began the chapter of her life that we remember. Bernadine and Bob purchased the Old Faithful Cabins in West Yellowstone. From then on, the iconic neon owl has illuminated the Ho Hum Motel. Along with substitute teaching at West Yellowstone Schools. she operated the motel while raising a family. This is where she left her legacy and touched so many lives. During the summer season she would go across the street to the Desert Inn and clean rooms, then return to clean her own rooms afterwards. Bernadine's passions were hard work, eating out, shopping, garage sales, riding around for hours just to see "the boys" (wolves) or to see if anything had changed since her last ride, getting a deal on anything, her lilac bushes, watching Cubs Baseball, and of course, cats. She never met a cat that she didn't need to feed. Bernadine was a devout Catholic and was a fixture in the back row of Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church for 70 years. Bernadine played hard, worked hard, and loved life ferociously. She never let any grass grow under her feet. Most of all her greatest joys came when helping others, and being with family (both the two and four legged kinds). Bernadine's work ethic was matched by none, and she always said "When you stop working you will probably stop breathing". Bernadine was preceded in death by her husband, "Big" Bob Johnson; son, "Little" Bob Johnson; son-in-law, Rudy Boelter; greatgranddaughter, Zoe Empey; as well as her parents, all of her sisters and brothers, and many nieces and nephews. Bernadine is survived by her daughter, Kathy Boelter, of Menan, Idaho; son, Jerry (Jacquelyn) Johnson, of West Yellowstone; daughter-in-law, Bonnie Barnhart, of Bozeman; grandchildren, Tim (Sheri) Boelter, of Billings, Kate (David) Lindsay, of Menan, ID, Brian Boelter, of Menan, ID, Keith (April) Johnson, of West Yellowstone, Kendra Johnson (Brady Castellano), of Livingston, Megan (Jacob) Miranda, of Helena, Nathaniel (Jackie) Johnson, of Highlands Ranch, CO; her great-grandchildren, DJ, Sam, Kara, Jordyn, Cherish, Sage, Jack, Francesca, Clark, Calvin, and Payton; and a great-great-grandchild, Raiden. Donations in Bernadine's honor are suggested to the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter, 1549 E. Cameron Bridge Rd., Bozeman, MT 59718; or Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church.

SEPTEMBER SENIOR LUNCH

Anyone can join the senior lunch crew from 11am-12pm on Wednesdays & Fridays at the Povah Community Center for a delicious lunch prepared by Chef Scott Fulton. Salad bar available. On Fridays, fresh vegetables and fruit are available for seniors to take home. Cost: \$5.00 for seniors, \$7.00 for all others

MENU

Sept 4: Taco Bar

Sept 6: Chicken stir fry & rice

Sept 11: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes & green beans

Sept 13: Spaghetti & meat sauce with Italian vegetables

Sept 18: Enchiladas, rice & beans

Sept 20: Chicken tenders, fries & mixed vegetables

Sept 25: Chicken fajitas

Sept 27: Fried steak, mashed potatoes, and green beans

3RD ANNUAL HOMEMADE CHILI COOK-OFF

On September 29th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. the First Baptist Church will be hosting the 3rd Annual Homemade Chili Cook-Off fundraiser at the Povah Community Center.

If you'd like to enter a chili into the competition please register by Friday, September 17th. It is \$20 to enter your chili, and you can do so by texting 813.785.5979 or by emailing vatempleman@gmail.com.



It's only \$3.00 to attend (ages 10 & up)

Proceeds benefit the Old Faithful Christian Retreat and the CommUNITY West Outreach program. Raffle tickets will also be sold at this event.



SEPTEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

 Mondays
 5:00-6:00pm

 Tuesdays
 3:15-4:15pm

 Wednesdays
 11:00am

 Wednesdays
 5:00-6:00pm

 Thursdays
 9:00-10:00am

 Fridays
 3:30-6:00pm

English Class for Spanish Speakers Lego Club (beginning September 17th) Toddler & Pre-K Storytime English Class for Spanish Speakers

Spanish Classes Board Game Meetup

September 25 6:30-8:00pm

Book Club Discussion (The Six by Loren Grush)



LIBRARY PICK OF THE MONTH



What do you think about when you look up at the stars? For six women, their thoughts turned to space travel during a period of time when only men were allowed. As young girls, each one of them longed to reach the stars one day, holding out hope that as the world changed so would NASA. This is the story of those six young girls that grew into NASA's first women astronauts. *The Six* covers their early lives, the process of applying to NASA, their training, and ultimately their missions in space. The tales offer an intimate and riveting look into what life was like for these women, particularly with the intense media coverage and the various races for "firsts" with the cosmonauts. Follow these women on their journeys through triumphs and disappointments as they navigate a world that was built for men and carry the dreams of generations of girls into the stars.



BLOOD DRIVE SEPTEMBER 9TH

The next blood drive is coming up! On Monday, September 9th at the Community Protestant Church Fellowship Hall you can give blood to save a life. Please use the following link to sign up www.bit.ly/3T94rKp

You can also call or text Lindsey Charlton if you need help signing up! 931-551-1520



THE WRETCHED MEST FEST RETURNS TO WEST YELLOWSTONE: SEPTEMBER 6 & 7 AT THE UNION PACIFIC DINING LODGE AND BOB JACKLIN CASTING POND

You are invited to the second annual Wretched Mess Fest, a celebration of arts and fly fishing! All events are free and open to the public.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 at 5PM by the Museum of the Yellowstone

Free Chalk Art Lessons. Learn techniques from professional artists! No registration necessary, all materials are provided. Ages 12 to 99. Prepare to aet messy.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2pm-10pm at the Union Pacific Dining Lodge

Live Chalk Art Artist Market Fly Fishing Reps USFS RC Bear Charging Station Fly Fishing Film Tour 8p-10p Food Truck Beer Garden Fly Tying for Kids Rod Demos on the Casting Pond Professional Fly Tyers Bench Patagonia Wader Repair Tent- all waders welcome! Ro Drift boats

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 10AM-10PM

Live Chalk Art Free Art Activities Artist Market Fly Fishing Reps Food Truck Beer Garden Casting Competition with Angler's Academy Spey Presentations Live Music Fly Tying for Kids Rod Demos on the Casting Pond Professional Fly Tyers Bench Patagonia Wader Repair Tent- all waders welcome! Ro Drift boats

Live Music- Zac Nytomt Band 8p-10p



Photo courtesy: Big Sky Anglers



MT FWP presentation on Brown Trout & the Madison River

HFF Dr. Rob Van Kirk presentation on the Henry's Fork

Fiscal Sponsorship Approval: The Best of West Digest's team is happy to announce that at the last West Yellowstone Foundation Board meeting, they approved to be our fiscal sponsor. The Best of West Digest was started from a small grant from the West Yellowstone Foundation which has now been used. If you're willing to help keep The Best of West Digest running, please give monetary donations to the West Yellowstone Foundation and make sure to notate "The Best of West Digest" on the check.

If you'd like to contribute to the September 2024 newsletter, we will be having a meeting on September 12, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. This gathering will be held at Town Hall. You can also submit your articles to admin@thebestofwestdigest.com. Deadline to turn in articles for the September issue is September 20, 2024.



SAFETY TIP: STROKES

A stroke occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or ruptures. When that happens part of the brain cannot get the blood (and oxygen) it needs, so it and brain cells die. A stroke is a time sensitive medical emergency, don't wait to see if symptoms stop, every minute counts. To recognize the warning signs of a stroke, remember BE FAST.

B- Balance

Loss of balance, dizziness

E- Eves

Vision changes

F- Face

Drooping, severe headache

A- Arm

Weakness, numbness

S- Speech

Trouble speaking, confusion

T- Time

Take note of the time symptoms started and call 911

REMINDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WEST YELLOWSTONE HOUSING STRATEGY PLAN SURVEY

Read the Housing Strategy Plan Draft and then take the quick survey. You can participate by going to the West Yellowstone Foundation's website www.westyellowstonefoundation.org/westy ellowstonehousingcoalition

Due date to complete this survey is September 13. 2024.



FISHING REPORT

As of 08.22.2024



HENRY'S FORK: CANYON COUNTRY

This remains a great time of year to head into the canyons of the Henry's Fork, where anglers can find some solitude and generally fun fishing. With the decrease in flows, rafts are the watercraft of choice, and much of the water is now reachable with flies. A dry/dropper is a great rig down here on most days, but don't be shy about tying on a heavy streamer, fishing it creatively by dead drifting and stripping to keep it off of the rocks, large trout inhabit these sections and anglers who find them more frequently are hunting them with fly rigs that both reach and entice them. Keep an eye on the weather forecast, being stuck in these sections during a heavy storm isn't as fun as being in there on a warm summer day.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Although we've seen a good bit of rain recently, flows in the Northeast Corner of YNP on the Lamar River and Soda Butte Creek remain clear, and fishing has been good with terrestrials like hoppers, crickets, and ants. As has been the case for the last few weeks, stormy weather is in the upcoming forecast. So be sure to keep an eye on flows.

Another Northeast Corner favorite, Slough Creek is also fishing well with terrestrials, and will not be affected by upcoming weather. In fact, afternoon thunderstorms can produce strong emergences of small (size #20) cream-colored baetis mayflies on Slough Creek. So, be sure to add some size #20 cream or yellow Sparkle Duns or Flag Duns to your arsenal of hoppers and ants. Whether you are hiking into the backcountry meadows, or patrolling the lower section below the campground, Slough Creek is home to some of the best sight fishing with dry flies you can find anywhere. Be sure to bring your A-game, and be ready to stalk these targets slowly and carefully.

The Gardner River and the Yellowstone River through the Black Canyon both had Hoot Owl restrictions lifted last week adding two great options for anyone looking for some good hopper fishing. Be prepared to cover a good amount of water when fishing each of these gems. Focus your efforts on only the most prime pieces of water, passing up the marginal spots that look like they *may* hold a fish.

Despite recently cooler, wetter weather and downright cold mornings, the Firehole, Madison, and Gibbon Rivers remain fully closed to fishing. As we inch towards autumn, the days continue to shorten and the nights get colder. Soon enough these three iconic fisheries will be cooled down, and back open for the fall season.

Which rivers and streams continue to have full fishing closures?

The following rivers are heavily influenced by geothermal features and do not adequately cool off at night.

- Madison River and all associated tributaries
- Firehole River and all associated tributaries
- Gibbon River and all associated tributaries downstream of Norris Campground

MADISON RIVER: BETWEEN THE LAKES

Betwix is the most consistent stretch with regards to river temps. There still are some mayflies fluttering about, they are smaller PMDs and roughly a size 18 or so. Caddis are still hatching but not in big numbers. Don't forget the terrestrial box; those ants, beetles and hoppers are definitely in play. If a fish refuses your fly one time, it's worth changing to something that is lower profile and sitting in the film, or keep moving along as that fish is likely spooked. Fishing a single fly will help your fly drift with less drag. The key darn near everywhere on the Madison is to cover water and keep moving until you start catching a few fish, then slow down and find similar types of water. Some days that might be the skinny riffles, some days that might be the pocket water.

Flies - chubbies in smaller sizes, Iron X Caddis, #16 Jojo's PMD, #16 Sparkle Dun PMD, Baltz's Paranymph #18, Last Chance PMD Cripple, Missing Link, Ginger Chubinator #16, Copenhaver Rusty Spinner #16, #8-12 Morrish hopper in various colors, Thunder thighs in pink and tan, Mimic Hopper, Sweat Dream Hopper, Arrick's Ant, Jojo's Honey Ant, Hoovie's Ant.

For those wanting to nymph, try smaller nymphs like BH Shop Vacs, Bullet Quill style Jigs, BH Serendipities, Roza's Pink Hare's Ear, Bead Head PT, standard Pheasant Tail, Frenchie, AZ Hare's Ear, PTs, Serendipites and the like.

MADISON RIVER: WADE SECTION

Fish the skinny gravel bars and riffles, those fish love to hold in those well oxygenated zones. Don't forget the pocket if you see a handful of caddis around. River temps this past week have fluctuated from 57-68 degrees. Fish are eating dry flies throughout the day - caddis, and Epeorus mayflies are hatching. Look for those big Epeorus Spinners down there as well, they trickle off during the day and then come morning, they spin in solid numbers. It's August folks - and on the warmer days, terrestrials are in the mix. Ants, beetles and hoppers. Food for thought - If I had one fly in August to fish it would be ants. When the hoppers are clicking, the trout will likely eat them, fish 2x to those hoppers because they really don't care about the diameter of your tippet.

Flies - chubbies of all sizes, Iron X Caddis, #14 & #16 Jojo's PMD, #14 Sparkle Dun PMD, Baltz's Paranymph #12-14, Last Chance PMD Cripple, Center Stage Caddis, Missing Link is various colors from #12-#16, Ginger Chubinator #16, Copenhaver Rusty Spinner #14 and #12, #14 PMD Film Critic, Arrick's Ant, Jojo's Honey Ant, Hoovies Ant, Morrish Hopper, Thunder Thighs, Sweet Dream Hopper, Henneberry Hopper, Dave's Hopper.

Short leashing a couple of nymphs or fishing a chubby and 2ft dropper is a great way to cover the water. Nymphs that we suggest for the wade section are - Hare&Copper, Serendipities, Shop Vac, Arizona Hares Ear, Jig Pheasant Tail, Red Neck, Hoover Black, Bullet Quills, Jig Napoleans, two bit hooker, #14-#18 Epoxyback Golden Stonefly, Frenchies or Pheasant Tails, the TB Ant is sneaky.

FOR THE WEEKLY FISHING REPORT VISIT WWW.BIGSKYANGLERS.COM

COOLER WEATHER IS COMING!

Buy 5 raffle tickets for \$20 (or \$5 each) to win a warm and beautiful limited edition Pendleton Woolen Mills commemorative woolen blanket.

Designed by a Nez Perce artist, Kevin Peters, donated by the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Association, this raffle supports our Museum of the Yellowstone.

Drawing will be in mid-October and no need to be present to win.

Purchase tickets at the Museum which is open daily 9 AM - 6 PM.

This blanket would make a great gift.

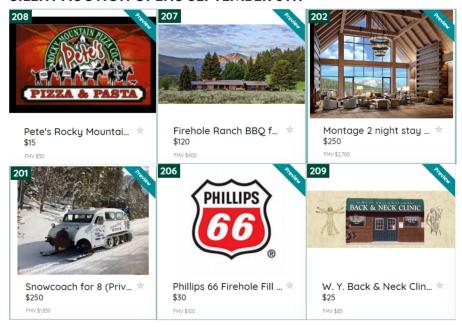


Pictured is Museum staff member, Patti Hostettler, with the Nez Perce designed blanket.



EIN: 41-2129790

32ND ANNUAL HAPPENING FUNDRAISER: ONLINE SILENT AUCTION OPENS SEPTEMBER 6TH



The West Yellowstone Foundation's online silent auction starts September 6th, you won't want to miss all the great items they have this year! You do not need to be present at the auction to bid, bidding takes place online: https://Happening2024.givesmart.com. This is their only major fundraiser of the year, proceeds support their general operations which allows them to provide community services like public transit, community grants, scholarships, work on housing solutions and more.

They will be adding items daily so check back often! You could score some great things like a gift certificate to Beartooth BBQ, family cross country ski pass, a Union Pacific Necklace or tickets to next year's Happening event! Auction ends at 8:15pm on September 14th. You do not need to be present to win, item descriptions state if item can be mailed, delivered or picked up.

TRAFFIC CALMING SURVEY

Share your opinion on the temporary traffic calming project on Firehole Avenue. Love it? Hate it? Ideas for improvements or expansion? We want to hear about it! Take the survey by visiting https://bit.ly/TrafficCalmingWY Please complete survey by October 1, 2024.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

September 3: Town Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at Town Hall and zoom. There will be two Public Hearings at this meeting, one for the FY25 Town of West Yellowstone's budget and the other for the second reading of the zoning code.

September 12: Business Improvement Advisory Board at 8am at Town

September 12: Marketing and Promotions Fund Advisory Board meeting at NOON at the Povah Community Center.

September 12: Health Care Advisory Board meeting at NOON at Town Hall. September 17: Town Council Meeting at 7:00 PM at Town Hall and zoom.

DISCLAIMER

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