

WRAPPING UP THOSE SUMMER PROJECTS

Have you noticed the newest projects around town?

58 new trees were planted by Swiss Precision down Canyon Street. This project was spearheaded by the Town of West Yellowstone's Business Improvement Advisory Board.



The basketball court at Electric Park received a much needed resurfacing. The resurfacing of the basketball court was completed by HK Contractors. The Town of West Yellowstone's Park and Recreation Advisory Board is starting to develop a Master Park Plan which will determine what happens to this court in the future.

In September, HK Contractors also completed the paved walkway alongside Electric Street near Electric Park. With the new lighting down this stretch that happened a couple of months ago, this provides a safer walking path for the community. Striping will happen in the near future.



Two new lights are being installed in front of Town Hall this last week of September. This project is being completed by Sweet Electric LLC. They are the same contractors that helped with the lighting down the stretch of Electric Street.

A REUNION TO REMEMBER

By: Dusty Dunbar

After 50 years, the West Yellowstone High School Class of 1974 returned to West Yellowstone to celebrate their long friendship and recall memories. The group gathered at the Parade Rest Guest Ranch on Saturday, September 14th for a wagon ride into the aspens, followed by a BBQ dinner at the outdoor pavilion. Ten of the original 14-member graduating class came from Montana and other western states, adding a 5th ten-year reunion to their perfect attendance record!



1974 Wolverines (left to right): Peggy (Reisdorf) Furu, Dusty Dunbar, Sandy (Stuart) Love, Liz (Green) Bryers, Camy (Gieschen) Townsend, Becky (Brower) Mitchell, Pat Reiter, Becky (Coffin) Schaap, Sam Burden, Cindy (Smith) Ostrowski, Janet (Czeczok) Chevrestt. Not pictured: Chip Smith, and spouses: Steve Bolton, Mike Bryers, Don Furu ('69), JD Love, Bob Ostrowski, Amber Smith and Steve Townsend.

Some of these Wolverines are rooted in the community's history. Six class members met one another on the very first day of First Grade and graduated together (Camy, Cindy, Dusty, Janet, Pat and Sandy) and the class's First Grade teacher, Mrs. Billie Smith, was West Yellowstone's first mayor.

But it wasn't just Wolverines from 1974 that helped to make the event noteworthy; Parade Rest Guest Ranch owner, Quint Whitman, musical entertainer, Larry Gibson, and wagon-driver, Zach Gould, are also WYHS grads!



HOMECOMING IS THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4, 2024. YOU CAN CHECK OUT THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE OR STUDENT COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA TO FIND A LIST OF ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES! GO WOLVERINES!

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WEST YELLOWSTONE FIREFIGHTERS SAFETY TIP: HOME FIRE DRILL

By: Kayla Wilson

In the event of a fire, remember that every second counts. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. Twice each year, practice your home fire escape plan. Some tips to consider when preparing this plan include:

- Find two ways to get out of each room in the event the primary way is blocked by fire or smoke.
- A secondary route might be a window onto a neighboring roof or a collapsible ladder for escape from upper-story windows.
- Make sure that windows are not stuck, screens can be taken out quickly and that security bars can be properly opened.
- Practice feeling your way out of the house in the dark or with your eyes closed.
- Teach children not to hide from firefighters.
- Teach children how to escape in case you can't help them.
- Choose a meeting place outside away from danger, make sure every knows the location.
- Practice with your family, make sure everyone understands what to do in an emergency.

Fire escape planning for older adults and people with access or functional needs.

- If you use a walker or wheelchair, check all exits to be sure you get through the doorways.
- Make necessary accommodations, such as providing exit ramps to help facilitate an emergency escape.
- Speak to your family members, building manager or neighbors about your fire safety plan and practice with them.

Remember, if the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. If everyone is outside, let the 911 operator know ASAP. Otherwise let the first responders know when they arrive.

BRANDY LOOMIS

SEPT 16, 1969 - SEPT 07, 2024

Bernadette "Brandy" Francine Hill Loomis, age 54, passed peacefully on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at Eastern Regional Medical Center, with her beloved husband, Brad, by her side.



Brandy was preceded in death by her father, Warren Hill Sr. She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Brad Loomis, and their three children: Bryce, Braden and Blake, all of West Yellowstone. Brandy was also dearly loved by Tim and Peggy Keating, who were like parents to her, as well as her siblings: Elizabeth, Warren Jr., Jennifer, Michelle, Sean and Mathew, along with their families, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Brandy was born on September 16, 1969, in Whittier, California. She graduated from Senior High School in Billings, Montana and pursued some college in Bozeman before settling in West Yellowstone, Montana. While she explored many career paths throughout the years, her love was teaching. As a paraprofessional at the West Yellowstone school, Brandy impacted many young lives, reflecting her desire to return to teaching. She always said she missed her calling and should go back to get her teaching degree.

Brandy met Brad in West Yellowstone and were married on June 28, 1997. Their lives were further enhanced by the births of their three sons, Bryce, Braden and Blake. She loved her home, family, boys, and friends dearly and they meant the world to her.

Her hobbies included anything outdoors- hiking, cross-country skiing, horses, cycling, water sports, home renovation, gardening, chasing sun, and powersports. From snow shows, to Polaris and Klim photoshoots, and the various snow venues here in West Yellowstone, she was very proud of her involvement in the snowmobile world.

A celebration of life will be held on September 28, 2024, at 1 PM at the Community Protestant Church, 505 N Electric Street West Yellowstone, MT. Socializing following.

May Brandy rest in peace, knowing she was cherished and loved beyond measure. She will forever hold a special place in our hearts.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME FUNDRAISER

Have old Halloween costumes laying around you don't know what to do with? Donate them to the Halloween Costume Fundraiser to support the Junior High Volleyball team. Donations can be dropped off at the fire station at 10 S Faithful Monday-Friday until October 2nd or contact Giselle Hansen 406-640-2959 to arrange pickup. Then on October 3rd stop by the south lobby of the school starting at 5:00 pm to join in on the fundraiser fun and do some costume shopping!

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

October 26 from 1:00-3:00 pm at the Povah Community Center parking lot. There will be food, popcorn, cotton candy and drinks provided. Feel free to decorate a car or just come and provide candy to the trunk or treaters.

October 31 at the Library, Halloween snacks and crafts will be provided.

OCTOBER 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

Oct 2: Fried steak, mashed potatoes, and green beans
Oct 4: Baked ziti, italian vegetables, and garlic bread
Oct 9: Beef stroganoff, chef blend vegetables
Oct 11: Spaghetti & meat sauce, mixed vegs, garlic bread
Oct 16: Lasagna and green beans
Oct 18: Pig on stick, mashed potatoes, and corn on the cob
Oct 23: Sloppy joes, tots, and mixed vegetables
Oct 25: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and green beans
Oct 30: Homemade pizza and mixed vegetables

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.



OCTOBER AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesdays	3:15-4:15pm	Lego Club
Wednesdays	11:00am	Toddler & Pre-K Storytime
Thursdays	9:00-10:00am	Spanish Classes
Thursdays	3:00-4:00pm	Tech Hour
Fridays	3:30-6:00pm	Board Game Meetup
October 23	6:30-8:00pm	Book Club Discussion
October 30	6:00-8:00pm	Cookin' the Books
October 31		Halloween snacks and crafts

LIBRARY PICK OF THE MONTH



Welcome the month of October with this magical read! The Spellshop by Sarah Beth Durst is everything you love about cozy fiction wrapped in the trappings of a fantasy world. Join Kiela on her journey as she flees the city she once knew and loved to find safety far away from the revolution that has claimed several lives and set fire to the buildings. With nowhere else to go, Kiela finds herself returning to the island home her parents left with her so many years ago. Once there, she must learn how to provide a life for herself as well as discover how to help the troubled locals regain their livelihoods. With this new addition to the Cozy Fantasy genre, The Spellshop grounds its charm in the building of a comfortable life instead of a high stakes adventure. Sit down with a warm drink, a cozy blanket, and enjoy this slice of life tale that includes all the favorite tropes of fantasy stories without the constant life-or-death scenarios. Join Kiela on her adventure as she restores her home, befriends the locals, and finds her place within an area she had left behind long ago.



If you'd like to contribute to the October 2024 newsletter, you can submit your articles to admin@thebestofwestdigest.com. Deadline to turn in articles for the October issue is October 18, 2024. The next Best of West Digest newsletter will be released on October 25, 2024.

DISCLAIMER

The West Yellowstone Foundation is the proud fiscal sponsor for the Best of West Digest, a community driven newsletter. The Best of West Digest does not reflect the views or opinions of the West Yellowstone Foundation. The West Yellowstone Foundation assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions contained in the publications.

REMINDER THE BLANKET RAFFLE IS ENDING AT THE END OF THE MUSEUM SEASON WHICH IS COMING SOON!



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.



**BIG SKY
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MONTANA

FISHING REPORT

As of 09.26.2024



HENRY'S FORK: CANYON COUNTRY

As long as the weather remains fair, forays into the canyons of the Henry's Fork are a worthy endeavor and can offer an active day's fishing on a sunny day. These are wilderness sections, remote and inaccessible outside of the boat ramps, so bring plenty of layers, food and water. Dry/dropper rigs are the usual choice, but we love to throw heavy, quick-sinking streamers on floating lines in here as well in search of larger trout. Olive, Black, Natural and something shiny are the color categories that are worth having represented in your selections.

MADISON RIVER: FLOAT SECTION

The float section is in prime shape with regards to the flows. The bite has still been day to day, but for those willing to put in the work, the rewards are there for sure. We have been nymphing or stripping streamers during the morning and then just after lunch, switching over to ants or a BWO after lunch. Fishing small dries like the BWO can be difficult at times as these flies are so small (cycle through a new fly once in awhile if need be to help with floatation) and hit the slicks and edges of the banks, some really nice fish can be taken this time of the year on BWO patterns. Don't be afraid to fish two small nymphs in the shallow water either.

Deep nymphing is always on deck in September and it's been pretty good lately with jigs, Shop Vacs, Olive Dips, Zebra midges, Juju Baetis and small rubber legs. Fishing an Olive bouface or Sparkle Minnow in the morning is never a bad idea either. Smaller dries still work from time to time - patterns such as Micro Chubbies, Jojo's Chubinator, Jojo's Red/Black Ant or Jojo's Honey Ant can still fool a few fish once/if the sun comes up. Jojo's BWO, Parachute Adams and BWO Sparkle Duns are great choices for small dry flies.

So far, September has been nice and cool with a handful of warmer days. We still need to do our part and treat the fish with respect.

1. Pull over and release those fish on the banks. Release them in slow current.
2. KEEP THEM WET. Do you really need another picture holding a trout? Get creative with your photos. Leave those fish in the net to take pics, or keep them as wet as possible. Take a slow mo video of releasing your prize back to the river.
3. If your trout swallowed the fly, cut the tippet and leave it in there, no need to jab those hemos down it's throat and make it bleed.
4. Fish barbless.
5. Fish heavier tippet whenever possible.

Treat those on the river with kindness and respect, you will actually catch more fish. When you pull off the bank, give plenty of room to the boats up stream working their way down. The Madison is moving fast and most folks who are newer to rowing a boat don't realize that 100 yards is NOT enough space. Give other boats plenty of room and be cool. When putting your boat in and taking it out, be efficient, get things done and exit the ramp area. Anchor your boat on the bank.

MADISON RIVER: BETWEEN THE LAKES

Fall colors are in full swing around Hebgen Basin and this stretch of water provides for some epic scenery and the opportunity for some great fishing. I would be on the look out for a BWO emergence mid/late morning throughout the afternoon any day from now until the end of the season. Don't forget to carry bear spray either, by now, it should just part of one's everyday attire.

Jojo's BWO, Parachute Adams and BWO Sparkle Duns are great choices for small dry flies. I always carry a standard Pheasant Tail (no bead) this time of the year to be dropped off a Parachute Adams and fished in the shallow riffles or slicks. A #10 black rubber leg, #16 olive hot spot jig, #18 Pheasant tail, #16 serendipities, #16 Shop Vac, #16 black Zebra midges, #16 and #18 Juju Baetis are all great choices for nymphing.

MADISON RIVER: WADE SECTION

Not a lot will change for the rest of the season in the Wade Section, until winter really sets in, things should be pretty stable down there. If you want to get an early start, your best bet is swinging or stripping a streamer. I personally like a floating line and a 9ft leader - I will fish a heavy sculpin pattern in the deeper runs or something that doesn't sink too fast and fish the shallower riffles. Depending on the day, the streamers bite might last for several hours. On the warmer days, a Jojo's #16 Chubinator or ant will move a fair share of fish along the banks and in the slicks when fished without drag. For me personally, I fish a single dry fly to eliminate drag when wade fishing. Definitely be on the look out for a late morning/early afternoon BWO emergence any day from here on out. I always carry a standard Pheasant Tail (no bead) this time of the year to be dropped off a dry fly and fished in the shallow riffles or slicks. Cover water, move quickly and then slow down when you start catching fish and pay attention to the water fish are coming out of. Nymphing has been productive as well with jigs, Shop Vacs, Olive Dips, Zebra midges, Juju Baetis and small rubber legs. Black/Olive BFE, Olive Bouface, Sparkle Minnow, Sculpin Snacks and the Thin Mint are all great streamer patterns.

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Wednesday, October 9th, 2024
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2:00 PM - 6:00 PM