

Grizzlies under federal management

On Monday, a federal judge ruled against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and overturned the Service’s action to remove grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem from the endangered species list. This means grizzly bears in Wyoming are now under federal management.

In June of 2017, the Interior Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Yellowstone grizzlies would no longer be listed as endangered. The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission had voted to allow hunters to shoot as many as 22 grizzlies outside Yellowstone National Park, with the hunt planned for this September.

Following a lawsuit to reverse the delisting, a decision was made Aug. 30 to implement a two-week restraining order on the hunt. A second two-week order was entered on Sept. 13, delaying the hunting season until Sept. 27 with an end date of Nov. 15.

Questions related to the review of the federal judge’s decision will be handled by the Wyoming Attorney General’s Office.

Governor Matt Mead stated he was disappointed with this past Monday’s decision. “Grizzly bear recovery should be viewed as a conservation success story. Due to Wyoming’s investment of approximately \$50 million for recovery and management, grizzly

bears have exceeded every scientifically established recovery criteria in the GYE since 2003. Numbers have risen from as few as 136 bears when they were listed in 1975, to more than 700 today.”

The increased number of grizzlies has led to increased distribution and their being located in Hot Springs County, in the Owl Creek drainage area, an area where they are typically not found. Grizzlies were even responsible for the loss of several sheep and calves from a local rancher.

“Biologists correctly determined grizzly

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photo by Cindy Glasson

Struttin’ their stuff

Winners of the Homecoming "Mangeant", juniors Riley Shaffer and Tyler Kay, showed off their best assets on Monday. The pair recreated a dance scene from Dirty Dancing, complete with stunt doubles for the lift, and made it very clear they were promoting world peace and saving the polar bears during the interview portion of the pageant. All of the classes participated in what has become one of the funnier events during Homecoming. Tonight (Thursday) will see the boy's Buff Puff volleyball games and the girl's Powder Puff game, all starting at 7 p.m.

Bjorklund wins volunteer honor

by Mark Dykes

AARP Wyoming announced Tuesday that Thermopolis resident Kay Bjorklund has been named the Andrus Award winner for the State of Wyoming.

Bjorklund was one of three finalists for the award, along with Jody Lowe of Laramie, and Judy Weickum of Cheyenne. In all, nine Wyomingites were nominated for the award with the finalists being announced in September through a series of videos on Facebook documenting the work of the finalists.

Viewers of the videos were asked to vote on the winner by sharing and liking the videos. In one week, Bjorklund’s video achieved 1,500 views, 446 likes, and 280 shares.

Bjorklund was surprised to hear she had won the award, but when she got the official word she cried tears of joy and expressed her appreciation to Lily Hayes for nominating her and the community for their support. Though unfamiliar with Facebook, as she doesn’t use the service, she was amazed with the 726 votes she received and enjoyed the comments people left as well.

“This really is a very nice honor,” she said.

Tom Lacock, the associate state director for state advocacy and communication, noted he visited with people from the community and the more he heard and read about Bjorklund the more amazed he was with what she does for the community.

The award, named after AARP founder, Dr. Ethel Percy Andrus, recognizes individuals who are sharing their experience, talent, and skills to enrich their communities in ways that are consistent with AARP’s mission, vision, and commitment to volunteer service.

Only one volunteer per state (or couple performing service together) can receive the award each year. The award winner is required to be at least 50 years old, and the achievements, accomplishments, or service on which the nomination is based must reflect AARP’s vision and mission.

At 94 years old, Bjorklund remains a Chamber of Commerce Ambassador, as

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Three HSC cowboys join hall of fame

Stanley ‘Henry’ Pennoyer, Charles ‘Charlie’ Shaffer and John Norman Wallingford of Hot Springs County were honored posthumously during the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame last weekend.

Stanley Pennoyer

Born on the family sheep ranch in Crowheart, Stanley “Henry” Pennoyer attended schools in Crowheart and Lander. As a young man he worked on the family ranch and other dude ranches in the Dubois area. In 1939, at the age of 21, he struck out on his saddle horse with a pack horse and a few head of cattle from Crowheart, crossing Blonde Pass to the North Fork of Owl Creek in Hot Springs County. He worked as a cowboy in the area until he leased, then later bought, the Beaver Place from Del Beaver.

He briefly served stateside in the military in the Cavalry division, honorably discharged in 1945.

Stanley and LaVonne married Sept. 16, 1950 in Wor-

land and continued ranching on Owl Creek until they purchased their own ranch. Growing his herd with each piece of property he bought, he was living the life he had dreamed of when he left home.

In the early 1950s Stanley and LaVonne started a family-operated big game outfitting business, Pennoyer Outfitting. He was also one of the original founding members of the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association.

Charlie Shaffer

Born in Illinois in 1882, Charlie Shaffer came with his family to Nebraska, Colorado and then to a ranch on Beaver Creek at Hailey, Wyo., near present day Lander. Though only boys, Charlie and his brother Joe, riding bareback, drove some of the horses and milk cows, as their mother drove the team and wagon into Wyoming Territory, arriving shortly before Wyoming was declared a state in July, 1980.

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School board votes to approve new program

by Cindy Glasson

Maintenance supervisor Jere Apland reported to the school board last week on the summer maintenance his crew completed.

At Ralph Witters Elementary (RWE) they finished the last of the carpet and linoleum replacement on the south end of the building. Apland added next summer will see new flooring in the kitchen and some patching of various spots on the roof.

They are systematically replacing carpeting and doing some painting at the middle school. The classrooms should all be finished with their renovation work by next summer.

The gym floor at the middle school was resurfaced and they did some roof sealing along with some dirtwork on the north end

of the school to eliminate some water issues.

Apland said they started a project in 2014 to get the roof replaced, but it has taken this long to get of the state’s waiting list. They have already met with architects from Sheridan and are putting the bid specifications together for the project. They hope to have a contractor selected by the end of the year so work can start as soon as possible in the spring.

Fortunately, this is a state funded project as it is going to be very expensive.

At the high school they did a lot of painting over the summer, the locker rooms, gym walls, stairwells and the gym floor.

They have finished putting epoxy floors in the bathrooms and the concession stand at the football field and put a new roof on the

maintainance shop. Next summer’s plans include re-roofing the concession stand.

They also managed to do some work in the vocational building and striped the parking lots as well.

Apland was happy to announce they have received a grant from Homeland Security to install new digital cameras at the middle school. He will be ordering them and getting them installed as soon as possible.

The board had their final discussion on whether or not to implement a three-year-old program for pre-school through the district at their meeting as well.

Amy Ready, who currently runs the Moms and Tots program as well as a pre-

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