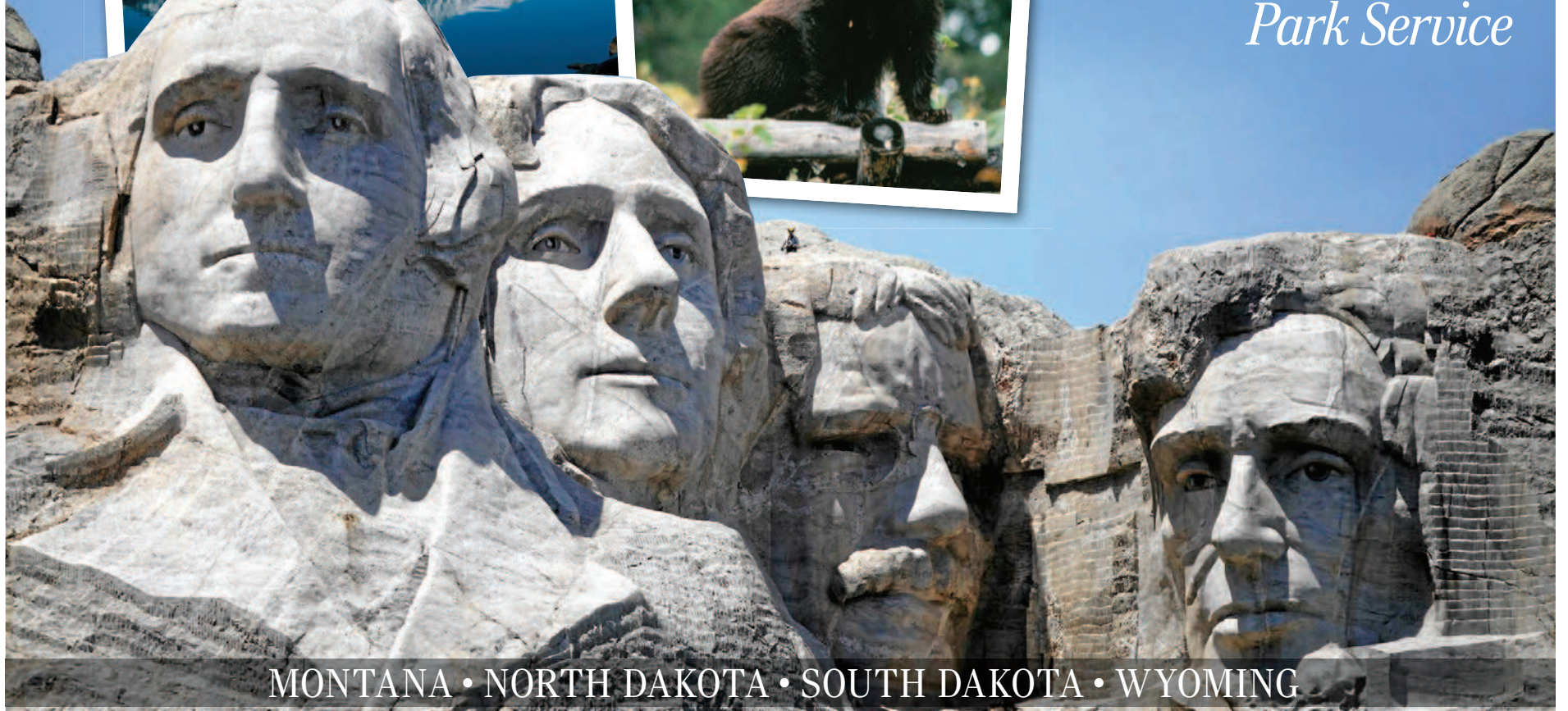


OUR NATIONAL PARKS

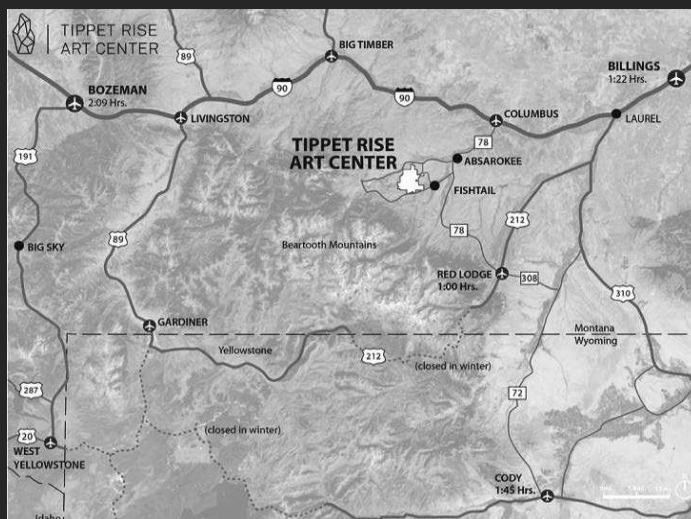
A CENTURY OF SERVICE



*A four-state
guide to America's
protected places
in honor of the
100th anniversary
of the National
Park Service*



MONTANA • NORTH DAKOTA • SOUTH DAKOTA • WYOMING

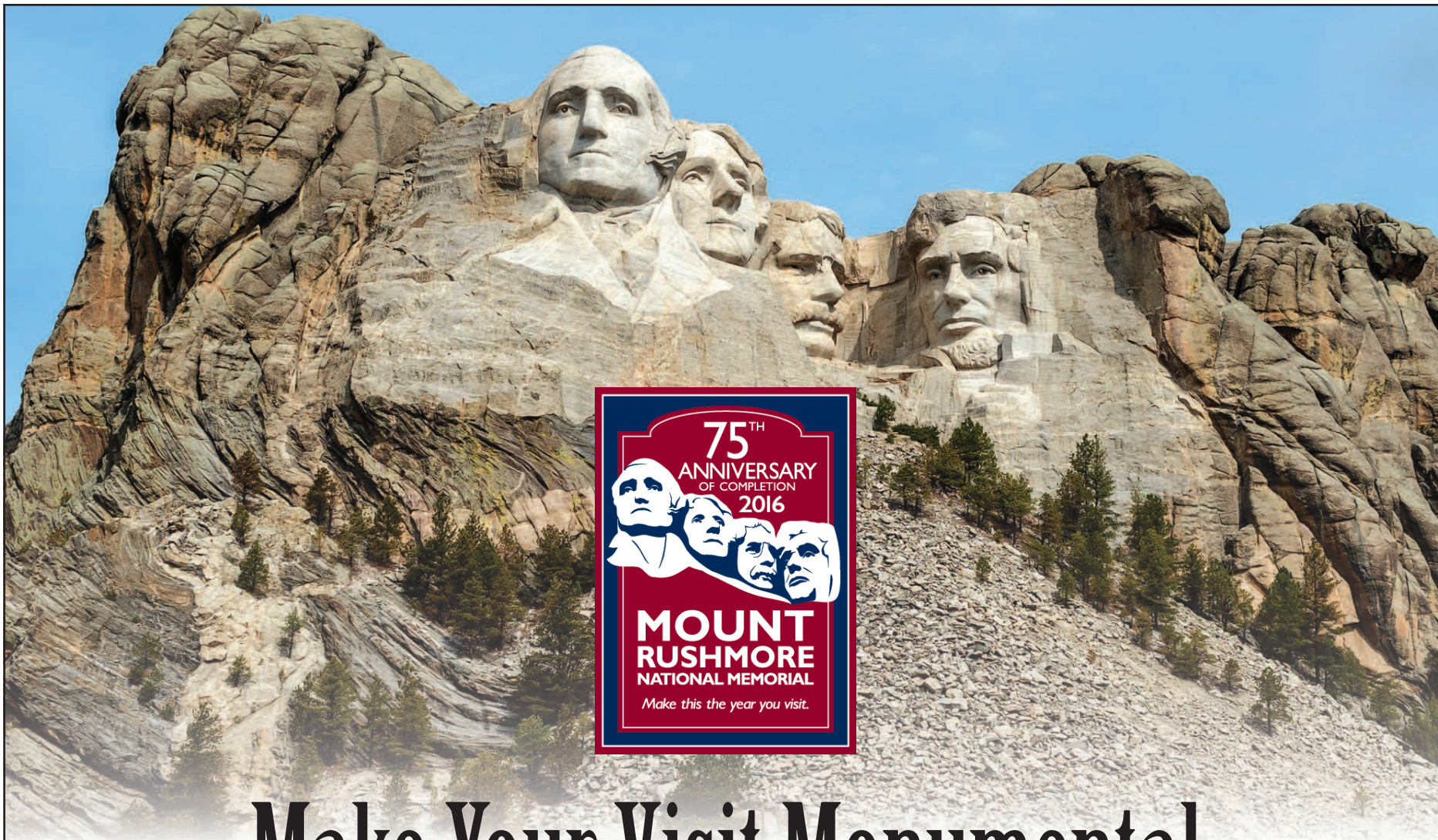


Set on an 11,500 acre working cattle and sheep ranch, Tippet Rise is a new cultural destination for the arts that hosts classical music performances and exhibits large-scale outdoor sculptures under the big sky of Montana's Beartooth Mountains.

ART CENTER : June 17 - September 30, 2016
Open and free to the public with limited daily admission.
Please pre-register to confirm your visit. www.tippetrise.org

HOURS:
Friday to Sunday: 10am-6pm
Open until 9pm on concert days

96 South Grove Creek Road, Fishtail, MT 59028



Make Your Visit Monumental

You found YOUR PARK. Now, enjoy all it has to offer.

Mount Rushmore Audio Tour • Ranger-led Programs • Junior Ranger Program
 Lincoln Borglum Museum & Visitor Center • Sculptor's Studio • Evening Lighting Ceremony
 Youth Exploration Area • Presidential Trail • Mount Rushmore Bookstores
 Carvers Cafe • Memorial Team Ice Cream Shoppe • Gift Shop

www.mountrushmoresociety.com • www.nps.gov/moru • www.mtrushmorenationalmemorial.com



Authorized
 Concessioner



A world of wonder awaits you

There are many reasons that residents of the upper Great Plains states of Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming should feel lucky.

Strong economies, compelling histories, intriguing landscapes and friendly folks are all reasons to feel grateful for living, working and playing in the four-state region.

But we are also fortunate to have access to many of the world's greatest preserved areas that are part of the vast American National Park Service system.

Within just a few hundred miles from anywhere in the four-state region, one can view the famed geysers in Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming; or step lightly across a remote ridge above Glacier National Park in Montana; or soak up the history of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota; or stand in awe at the majesty of Mount Rushmore or the beautiful bleakness of Badlands National Park in South Dakota.

This special section was produced to honor those sites and many other wonders of the National Park Service as it celebrates its centennial in August. The creation of this 64-page section was accomplished by talented journalists and advertising sales staffs at seven newspapers within the Lee Enterprises chain: the Billings Gazette, Bismarck Tribune, Casper Star-Tribune, Helena Independent Record, The Missoulian, Montana Standard of Butte, and Rapid City Journal. With distribution in those publications, and placement at rack sites across the four-state region, this section will reach an estimated 300,000 readers.

We hope you enjoy the articles, images and information contained within. And we hope you will take note of the advertisers who supported the publication and the communities where they do business, and visit them when possible.

Most of all, we urge you to pack up the car, power up that digital camera, and head on out to experience these amazing sites for yourself, up close and personal, the way the park service intended from its inception on Aug. 25, 1916.

— Bart Pfankuch, editor, Rapid City Journal



BART PFANKUCH, RAPID CITY JOURNAL

A bighorn sheep relaxes amid the splendor of the ancient spires at Badlands National Park in South Dakota.

What you'll find in these pages

In this special section, you'll discover a wealth of information about the National Park Service, and selected sites within the four-state upper Great Plains region, including:

- A look at the NPS over the past 100 years
- Profiles of major parks from all four states
- Hidden gems, or lesser-known sites, in all four states
- A map and mileage chart for parks and some cities
- More informative articles on the park system



COURTESY PHOTO

These images show Lower Yellowstone Falls in Yellowstone National Park through the years. Other than a walking path, not much has changed.

CELEBRATING A CENTENNIAL

National Park Service honors its past, and charts a bright future

BY BART PFANKUCH, Rapid City Journal

The emotions well up the moment one passes any National Park Service entrance sign with its iconic arrowhead logo, and with the greeting by a park ranger in the famed Smokey the Bear felt hat.

It's a sense of discovery, of anticipation and of awe — a feeling that something special and worth protecting awaits.

Please see **Centennial**, Page 6

Centennial

From 5

During the century since the National Park Service was created, and even decades earlier when national parks were first christened, that emotional connection to our nation's resources and history has drawn billions of people from around the world to the sites overseen by the park service.

The National Park System covers more than 84 million acres and is comprised of 410 sites with 28 different designations. These include 128 historical parks or sites, 81 national monuments, 59 national parks, 25 battlefields or military parks, 19 preserves, 18 recreation areas, 10 seashores, four parkways, four lakeshores, and two reserves.

From California to Maine, and all points in between, the widely diverse park system exists as more than a roster of places to visit, learn and reflect. The parks and sites are, in fact, representative of our nation as a whole and its mission to be the home of the free — through the past, in the present, and into the future.

"There is nothing so American as our national parks. The fundamental idea behind the parks is that the country belongs to the people, that it is in process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us," President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said.

The National Park Service was authorized on Aug. 25, 1916. But the United States was creating national parks long before then. The first, Yellowstone, was dedicated in 1872. Its enacting legislation declared it was to be "set apart as a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

Today, about 300 million people visit park service sites each year. The park service has an annual budget of \$2.4 billion, and generates an estimated \$27 billion to the national economy.

The NPS centennial celebration is now in full swing, with celebrations and remembrances being held at many parks and sites, the launching of a "Find your park" campaign by the NPS, the release of three commemorative coins by the U.S. Mint, and launching of 16 celebratory stamps by the U.S. Postal Service.

As the 100th anniversary date nears, many people with deep connections to national parks and sites are reflecting on the value and meaning of the National Park Service and the magnificence of the areas it oversees and protects.

"I think the centennial is not a birthday party, it's really about what the national parks have become since Yellowstone was first created," said Dan Wenk, the current superintendent at Yellowstone who has more than four decades of experience as an NPS



Staff members at Grand Teton National Park shown in 1929.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



A bull moose reaches for a bite of a young cottonwood on Antelope Flats in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE FILE

administrator. "It's about how the national parks now represent both our natural and cultural history of this nation."

Wenk, who ran Mount Rushmore National Memorial for 16 years, and at one point was interim director of the entire park service, said the centennial has also allowed for a deeper recognition of the significance that protecting and preserving special places plays in the lives of human beings.

"The national parks' place in the hearts and minds of the American public, and people from around the world, that these are

places deserving of our protection," Wenk said. "People are coming in record numbers ... and that says something about how important these places are in people's lives."

Credit for conceiving the national park concept has been shared by many people, from naturalist John Muir, to writers like Henry David Thoreau. But the park service itself hails artist George Catlin as the initial promoter who brought the idea into the national consciousness. Catlin traveled to the Dakotas in 1832 to paint American Indians and their homelands, and began to worry

over the destruction of native peoples and their lands by America's western migration.

Catlin wrote that the untouched landscapes could be preserved "by some great protecting policy of government ... in a magnificent park ... a nation's park, containing man and beast, in all the wildness and freshness of their nature's beauty."

Nearly 90 years on, by August 1916, the U.S. Department of Interior oversaw 14 national parks, 21 national monuments and two other preserved areas. But as Congress began to consider forming the park service, opposition arose from within the U.S. Forest Service, which saw creation of a park service as likely to pilfer away control of prime lands under its jurisdiction.

Stephen T. Mather, who would become the first superintendent of the park service, lobbied Congress and gained support from magazines like National Geographic and The Saturday Evening Post. But it may have been a portfolio on the concept, funded in part by 17 railroad companies in the West, that was sent to members of Congress and national civic leaders that pushed the concept to fruition.

Then, on Aug. 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Act, with a formal stated purpose "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Land preservation began with a flourish, and attendance at national parks has been growing ever since. According to the park service, visits totaled 1 million in 1920, 17 million in 1940, 79 million in 1960, 198 million in 1980, 286 million in 2000, and 307 million in 2015.

In this centennial year, many parks are already on pace for record attendance.

More than 292,000 recreational visitors were counted at Grand Teton National Park this May, up 26 percent compared to 2015 and double the rate of May tourism that was recorded just 5 years ago.

At Glacier National Park, visitation for the month of May increased 32 percent over the same month in 2015, when a record 2.36 million people entered the park that year. Officials at the remote Montana park announced recently that 178,218 people visited Glacier in May, even though the park's primary attraction, Going-to-the-Sun Road, had not yet opened to vehicle traffic.

Yellowstone saw nearly a half-million visitors in May alone, and the park is on pace to crush last year's annual record. Even lesser-known sites like Wind Cave National Park in western South Dakota saw record attendance already this year, as more than 9,700 people went on 370 cave tours in May, top-

ping the May 2015 figures by 1,000.

But the increased visitation is causing some concern among park service administrators and naturalists who wonder when increasing vehicle traffic, infringement on wildlife and vegetation, and other unforeseen human impacts will reach a tipping point where people get turned off to park visits and the parks themselves begin to degrade.

Park managers have begun looking at whether, when and how best to manage the impact of more people on the parks, their features and the visitors' experience.

"Fundamental to the mission of the National Park Service is preservation of natural and cultural resources, social and ecological values, for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this generation and those to come," Rose Keller, social scientist at Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska, said recently.

Denali and Yellowstone plan to survey visitors about their experiences this summer, hoping the responses will provide insight on what limitations visitors might accept.

Arches and Canyonlands national parks in Utah have been taking public comment on their plans for tighter rules about how many people can be in the park at the same time. Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming should announce by the end of the year how it intends to limit access to a popular roadway.

"The founders of the National Park Service did anticipate significant increase in visitation over the life of the national park system," former Glacier Park Superintendent Chas Cartwright said. "But I don't know how they could have anticipated things would change like they have. People are coming for a million different things. They want to do their weddings and dispose of loved ones' ashes. There was a movement a while ago to allow base jumping. What about those super-fat tires for over-the-snow bikes? What's acceptable and what's not? Would a zipline in the park be an exciting, modern-day experience? Should we be constructing cell towers to get better connectivity on mountain peaks?"

But Cartwright said the parks will remain relevant, and should not be held hostage to high visitor counts.

"Most people locally are of the mind that it's congested with a lot more people on the trails," Cartwright said. "But generally on national level, when you get out there and ask the question: Is the park too crowded? The answer is no – it's a lot busier where I live."

Current NPS Director Jon Jarvis has served the agency for 40 of its 100 years. At the World Ranger Congress gathering in Estes Park, Colo., in May, he noted that Congress has given the agency its largest budget ever for 2016. But he also criticized the agency's ability to effectively explain its mission.



COURTESY PHOTO

An early Yellowstone park ranger gets up close and personal with a steaming crevice in the earth's surface.



“I think the centennial is not a birthday party, it’s really about what the national parks have become since Yellowstone was first created. It’s about how the national parks now represent both our natural and cultural history of this nation.”

Dan Wenk, current superintendent at Yellowstone

“We’ve never been good at making the case for our needs,” Jarvis told an international audience. “We’ve been inarticulate, to be blunt about it. But outdoor recreation, in terms of contribution to the nation, is at least double to what the oil and gas industry provides to the nation in terms of jobs. Investment in the work we do generates far more jobs than all the subsidies and things they do for the oil and gas industry.”

The promise of a bright future, according to Yellowstone’s Wenk, is dependent upon continued support by patrons and in maintenance of the parks, while balancing such work against the need to protect park ecosystems and natural integrity of the landscapes that made the parks desirable and viable in the first place.

“These are places that have stories to tell,”

he said. “It’s also a story for me of what’s been done to take care of this place, and what more needs to be done to take care of it, and make it better.”

He said maintaining interest in the parks, and indeed expanding that interest, is critical to a bright future for the parks. Reaching out to underrepresented groups, such as young people and people of color, are part of the equation to keep the park system viable, he said.

Despite its seemingly incongruous connection to the natural world, social media is increasingly a tool used by park administrators and visitors to heighten interest in the parks and create a buzz about why it’s so great to visit them. Wenk noted that Yellowstone has 750,000 supporters on Facebook, and he praised social media as a way

for people to immediately share their joy of visiting a park with their family and friends elsewhere (as long as they remain safe and smart while taking selfies.)

In the long run, however, Wenk said it will be up to our nation and its leaders to make the commitment necessary to keep the park system the gem it is now – for at least another 100 years.

“Will we as a society be willing to make those decisions necessary to protect these places? My answer is that I hope so,” Wenk said. “As long as we continue to make people understand why it’s incredibly important to do so. If we, the park service, don’t stay relevant to the American public, then that’s when I would worry.”

– *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*



GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

A lone kayak operator has Kintla Lake in Glacier National Park, Mont., all to herself. Supreme vistas abound at this remote but remarkable national park.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

A vast, mountainous park with vistas aplenty

Billings Gazette

Glacier National Park, dubbed the “Crown of the Continent” in 1901 by naturalist George Bird Grinnell, became a national park in 1910.

Much of the vast mountain wonderland had belonged to the federal government for only about 15 years, having been ceded by the Blackfeet in 1895. Soon, though, the Great Northern Railway was ferrying tourists to the park for extended tours. Great Northern President James Hill recognized the tourist potential of Glacier after a Flathead scout named Coonsah helped the railroad find a pass through the mountains. Today, the park is accessed by thousands via Amtrak’s Empire Builder (named for Hill).

Many of those early visitors rode horseback to dormitories at Gunsight Lake. They invited bears to pose for pictures (some things haven’t changed!) They meandered around the nine chalets at Rising Sun Point.

Today, the Gunsight and Sun Point structures have vanished, but helicopter tours provide glimpses of Pumpelly Glacier that no pack trail ever reached. Lake McDonald Lodge’s “front door” faces the water because all the original visitors arrived by boat. Motorists coming in from the Going-to-the-Sun road come in through the back door.

About 85 percent of Glacier’s visitors come for the “windshield experience” of driving through the park, taking advantage of the unique and stunningly gorgeous Going-to-the-Sun Road, 50 miles of incomparable mountain vistas. Congestion is significant during the few months – from June to October – that the road is open.

To combat this, the park has instituted a free shuttle service over the road, which is an enjoyable and stress-free way to experience it.

The park borders the Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada. The two parks together were designated the world’s first international peace park in 1932.

Scientists estimate the park was first settled by Native Americans 10,000 years ago. Many areas in the park are sacred to the Blackfeet, who sold much of what was in the park in the 1895 deal, for \$1.5 million and perpetual hunting rights. The tribe considers the park lands “The Backbone of the World.”

One of the biggest problems facing the park is climate change. When the park was created, it contained more than 150 glaciers.



The sunrise is reflected in the waters of Bowman Lake in Glacier National Park in Montana.



Please see **Glacier**, Page A10

A hiker traverses the trail from Grinnell Glacier to Josephine Lake in Glacier National Park.

If you go

Glacier National Park is located in the northwest corner of Montana, due north of Missoula, and reaches up to touch the U.S. border with Canada.



The West entrance can be reached from Kalispell, Mont., by taking Highway 2 north about 33 miles to West Glacier. The St. Mary, Two Medicine and Many Glacier entrances can be reached by taking Highway 89 north from Great Falls to the town of Browning and then following signs. The St. Mary entrance is the east entry point of the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Annual Glacier passes are \$35. Car entrance in the summer is \$25. Camp fees vary from \$10 to \$23 a night. Most sites need to be reserved in advance.

Bears and mountain lions are plentiful in Glacier and campers and hikers are advised to take precautions. For more information, go online to nps.gov/glac.

Reflections on a national park

What's been said about Glacier National Park:



"Far away in Montana, hidden from view by clustering mountain-peaks, lies an unmapped northwestern corner, the Crown of the Continent."

— **George Bird Grinnell, 1901**

"Give a month at least to this precious reserve. The time will not be taken from the sum of your life. Instead of shortening, it will indefinitely lengthen it and make you truly immortal."

— **John Muir, 1901**

"There is no highway which will give the seer, the lover of grandeur of the Creator's handiwork, more thrills, more genuine

satisfaction deep in his being, than will a trip over this road."

— **Montana Gov. Frank H. Cooney, dedicating the Going-to-the-Sun Road, July 1933**

"The prediction that glaciers will be gone from Glacier National Park has been moved up by 10 years to 2020, the same year it's predicted the Arctic Sea will be ice-free in the summer."

— **Author Bill Kurtis**

"The main thing is the whole thing. Which is why it seems to me that although Glacier lacks a logo; like defining attraction, it perhaps better than any other place defines the general purpose and value of our National Park System ... a monument to the underlying forces of nature, not to the unusual features of it."

— **Bill Gilbert, Life Magazine, 1993**

Glacier

From A9

Now, that number is down to 25 active glaciers. Some scientists predict that the glaciers will disappear altogether by 2020 to 2030.

Still, the park contains hundreds of waterfalls and lakes, including small, picturesque bright turquoise alpine lakes called tarns. They help form some of the best backpacking territory on the continent.

Lake McDonald Valley, on the western side, is a stunning glacier-carved expanse. The lake, 10 miles long and up to 500 feet deep, is the largest in the park.

On the eastern side, St. Mary Lake has the teal color of a glacier-fed lake. It, too, is nearly 10 miles long and its shorelines offer magnificent views and abundant wildlife.

Glacier is home to a vast 1 million acres plus, so how visitors go about navigating the park is key, and really depends on what you want to do there.

Many car visitors choose to make a trip on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, a breathtakingly beautiful journey of about 50 miles over 6,646-foot Logan Pass, spanning the park between the east and west entrances.

The road is generally open from early June to late October but check with the park before coming because weather conditions may mean the road does not get plowed until later in June.

The narrow, winding road has many hairpin turns, so vehicles are limited to no



BILLINGS GAZETTE FILE

A hiker makes his way along a ridge in Glacier National Park.

longer than 21 feet and no wider than 8 feet between Avalanche Creek and the Rising Sun picnic areas. Vehicles over 10 feet in height may not have sufficient clearance to avoid rock overhangs. The park does however offer a free shuttle connecting the east and west sides of the park via the Going-to-the-Sun Road.

Whether you're coming to look through your windshield or backpack into isolated grandeur, Glacier National Park has everything a summer tourist could want.

Barrett Hospital & HealthCare
Celebrates 4 Years In Our New Home

Caring for you since 1922

600 MT Highway 91 South Dillon
MT 59725 | (406) 683-3000
www.barrethospital.org

BARRETT
HOSPITAL & HEALTHCARE
"Quality Healthcare Close to Home"

Come Have a BALL!

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST!

Billings, MT
406.652.8100
zoomontana.org

follow us

★ OTIS TAYLOR ★ THE RECORD COMPANY

MATT ANDERSEN

FIONA BOYES

GUTHRIE BROWN

KEVIN VAN DORT

★ ZIGGY MARLEY ★

KAREN LOVELY

THE ALTERED FIVE BLUES BAND

JARED STEWART

THIS FESTIVAL IS 18+

Budweiser

BEARTOOTH Harley-Davidson

ELLE KING

KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD

GATES OPEN AT 5PM

STILLWATER MINING

First Interstate Bank

AUGUST 5&6 ★ DOWNTOWN BILLINGS, MONTANA
TICKETS AT HOLIDAY STORES IN BILLINGS, CACTUS RECORDS IN BOZEMAN,
ONLINE AT WWW.MAGICCITYBLUES.COM OR CALL (406) 534-0400.
\$49 advance (\$60 at the gate)

MAGIC CITY BLUES
Montana's Urban Music Festival



BILLINGS GAZETTE FILE

Claudia Hrebicek of Victor, Montana drives a team of horses lifting hay onto the stack with an overshot stacker during a recent haying display at Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.

Montana's hidden gems

Here is a look at some less well-traveled but still worthy National Park Service sites in Montana.

Grant-Kohrs Ranch

This National Historic Site is perfectly situated for a visit if you're traveling between Yellowstone and Glacier national parks. It has the preserved headquarters of a 10 million-acre ranching empire. The ranch, originally established in 1862 by Johnny Grant, a Canadian fur trader, was later expanded greatly by cattleman Conrad Kohrs. Now the 1,618-acre historic site is maintained by the National Park Service as a working ranch.

Depending on the time of year, visitors have the chance to see the way ranch work was done in the early days, including haying using historic horse-drawn implements, branding the old-fashioned way. The ranch is near Deer Lodge, Mont., and is just off Interstate 90 exits 184 and 187.

Big Hole National Battlefield

This incredibly beautiful site, just far enough off the beaten path to be relatively uncrowded, is the location of a fierce battle in which Col. John Gibbon ambushed the

Nez Perce Indians, then under the leadership of Looking Glass, who had reassured the tribe that the citizens of Montana would let them travel in peace.

The battle claimed the lives of 31 soldiers and civilian volunteers and between 70 and 90 Nez Perce Indians, mostly women and children. The battlefield is 10 miles west of Wisdom, Mont., on State Highway 43. The drive to the battlefield from any direction is scenic. The site is open from sunrise to sunset.

Little Bighorn National Battlefield

This hugely significant site memorializes the U.S. Army 7th Cavalry and the Sioux and Cheyenne at the site of one of the most famous conflicts in U.S. history, where thousands of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors defeated and killed 263 soldiers and their leader, Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer in June 1876. The site includes the Custer National Cemetery, where about 5,000 individuals from many of our nation's wars are interred; the 7th Cavalry Memorial on Last Stand Hill; and an Indian Memorial built to honor the tribes defending their way of life. It is easily accessed from Interstate 90 at the Crow Agency exit, number 510. During summer



LARRY MAYER, BILLINGS GAZETTE

The visitor center at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument is a cinder block building constructed in 1952 positioned just below Last Stand Hill.

the entrance gate is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the visitor center from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Butte-Anaconda Historic District

This National Historic Landmark includes many historic buildings and sites related to the area's rich mining history. Butte, "The Richest Hill on Earth," provided much of the copper the country needed

for the spread of electrification and then for two world wars. There is still an active copper mine there. Anaconda was the site of the largest smelter in the area. Historic walking tours are available in both communities and one of the best golf courses in the West, the Old Works, built as part of the town's Superfund cleanup, is one of Anaconda's greatest attractions. Anaconda and Butte, about 24 miles apart, can both be easily accessed. Butte is near the intersection of interstates 90 and 15 and Anaconda is 24 miles west, just off I-90.



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of buffalo, also known as American bison, block a lane of traffic in Yellowstone National Park, while walking toward West Yellowstone, Mont. Bison are a common sight inside America's first national park.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steam rises from vents of Porcelain Basin in Yellowstone National Park's Norris Geyser Basin.

A natural wonderland, a hotbed of discovery

BRETT FRENCH
Billings Gazette

At about the same time that early humans were migrating out of Africa into Asia — roughly 2 million years ago — the first large volcano erupted in what is now Yellowstone National Park.

That explosion created the Huckleberry Ridge Caldera, essentially a large sinkhole produced when the ground subsided after the magma chamber underneath was emptied. Scientists have theorized that the Huckleberry Ridge eruption ejected 6,000 times as much material into the air

as the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens in Washington.

The land is now known as Yellowstone National Park, the nation's first official national park. For tourists, naturalists and anyone with a sense of adventure, it's a hot spot — in more ways than one.

When it comes to the park's history, geology is the underlying factor for much of what last year attracted more than 4 million visitors. Perhaps the most unusual part of that geology is related to the Yellowstone supervolcano.

That same ancient hot spot brewing un-

derground provides Yellowstone National Park with its more than 10,000 hydrothermal features — bubbling mudpots, giant crystal clear hot springs and, drawing the most attention, its geysers. Yellowstone contains the largest concentration of active geysers in the world, with almost half the world's total.

The park's most famous hydrothermal feature is the predictable Old Faithful Geyser, which erupts about 17 times a day. But it is the less consistent but much larger Steamboat Geyser that can claim honors as the largest in the world, sometimes shoot-

ing super-heated water more than 300 feet into the air.

The other geologic feature that has most recently shaped the 2.2-million acre park is the last ice age. About 17,000 years ago, an ice cap that encased the mountainous area under thousands of feet of frozen snow slowly began receding. The grinding of the glacier's movement, its melting and the resultant erosion that the melted water created all helped shape the modern Yellowstone.

Please see **Yellowstone**, Page A14



HANNAH POTES, BILLINGS GAZETTE

Bison graze in Yellowstone National Park.

Yellowstone

From A13

It wasn't until about 14,000 years ago that the first humans migrated into the region. So far, archaeologists have uncovered about 1,500 early human habitation sites in Yellowstone. Those visitors, like today, came to view the sites and fish. They also likely collected important medicinal plants and harvested chunks of obsidian, a volcanic rock used to make knives, spear and atlatl points.

Many tribes have oral histories that recount use of Yellowstone, although it was likely seasonal because the high country would be inhospitable during much of the fall, winter and spring. The park was also along the now-named Bannock Trail that tribes to the west would use to move to bison hunting grounds on the plains of what is now Montana and Wyoming.

Americans overlook much of this ancient history when they proclaim that Yellowstone was first "discovered" in the early 1800s. John Colter, a member of the 1804-1806 Lewis and Clark expedition, may have been one of the first Euro-Americans to explore the area while fur trapping.

It wouldn't be until 1860 that the first

If you go

Yellowstone National Park is located in far northwestern Wyoming, and part of Montana and Idaho. The park is so vast it has six entrances; most visitors arrive. The peak months for visitation are June, July and August, so if you want to see the park when there are fewer visitors, avoid these more heavily trafficked months. The park is open to regulated snowmobile and snow coach traffic in the winter.

The cost to enter the park is \$30 per vehicle, which is good for seven days. For an additional \$20 visitors can enter Yellowstone and adjoining Grand Teton National Park to the south.

There are 12 campgrounds inside Yellowstone, five of which are operated by a concessionaire and take reservations. The others are all first-come, first-served and usually fill by early in the morning. Camping fees range from \$15 to \$48 a night depending on amenities. Additional camping can be found outside of the park on national forest lands.

Lodges inside the park are operated by Xanterra Parks & Resorts. Those rooms are often booked months in advance so plan ahead.

More information is online at nps.gov/yell.



WYOMING

Please see **Yellowstone**, Page A16

FORT PECK Summer Theatre

Bringing
You
Our
47th
Season



Show Times:
Fridays & Saturdays
7:30 pm
Sundays 4 pm



More Information call 406.526.9943 • Hours: 12 to 4 pm - Wed. thru Sun.
boxoffice.fpst@gmail.com - www.fortpecktheatre.org
Located in Fort Peck, Montana - NE Montana's Historic Summer Theatre



Featuring
A Montana Original!
JAKE'S
Fresh Huckleberry Glazed BBQ Ribs
Flathead Valley Huckleberries



Get Them While They Last.

JAKE'S
BAR & GRILL

Starting
July 1st



2425 Gabel Road, Billings, MT
406-252-9375

www.jakesbillings.com

2701 1st Avenue North, Billings, MT
406-259-9375

Reflections on a national park

What's been said about Yellowstone National Park:

"There's no other place on Earth like this. This is our Jerusalem."

– **Jimmy St. Goddard, Blackfoot spiritual chief**



Roosevelt

"There can be nothing in the world more beautiful than the Yosemite, the groves of the giant sequoias and redwoods, the Canyon of the Colorado, the Canyon of the Yellowstone, the Three Tetons; and our people should see to it that they are preserved for their children

and their children's children forever, with their majestic beauty all unmarred."

– **U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt**

"It's a lot bigger than I thought it would be, and clean."

– **Chris Donnelly, Australian tourist on holiday**

"This place, this Yellowstone, comes in through the nostrils, swims into the blood, to alter your very constitution, leaving the familiar skin a sage-scented facade for the wildness running beneath."

– **Liz Hinman, a teacher in the Yellowstone Educators of Excellence Institute**

"Here you really see these geological processes in action. It's one of the cool things about the park. Yellowstone allows you to see these geological processes before your eyes."

– **Cheryl Jaworowski, Yellowstone geologist**

"Yellowstone, of all the national parks, is the wildest and most universal in its appeal. Daily new, always strange, ever full of change, it is nature's wonder park. It is the most human and the most popular of all parks."

– **Susan Rugh, Family Vacation magazine, 1920s**



Jimmy St. Goddard

BILLINGS GAZETTE FILE



SACAJAWEA HOTEL

VISIT US ON YOUR SUMMER TRAVELS!

Luxury Lodging & Fine Dining at Pompey's Grill Pub
Style Food & Atmosphere at the Sac Bar. Live Music on
Thursday, Friday & Saturday Nights!

Visit our website for lodging specials, events, and more!



5 North Main Street | Three Forks, Montana 406.285.6515 | www.sacajaweahotel.com





HANNAH POTES, BILLINGS GAZETTE

A bison nurses her calf in Yellowstone National Park.

Yellowstone

From A14

formal expedition explored a portion of the park, and later, to calls for the area's permanent protection. That preservation was formally recognized by Congress in 1872 when Yellowstone was named the nation's first national park, withdrawing the area from "settlement, occupancy or sale and set apart as a public park or pleasuring-ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

This year the Park Service is celebrating its 100th anniversary with special events, including a concert and speeches by visiting

dignitaries on Aug. 25 in Gardiner, next to Yellowstone's North Entrance.

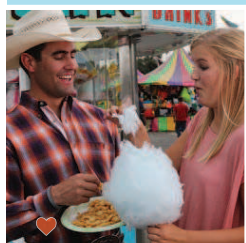
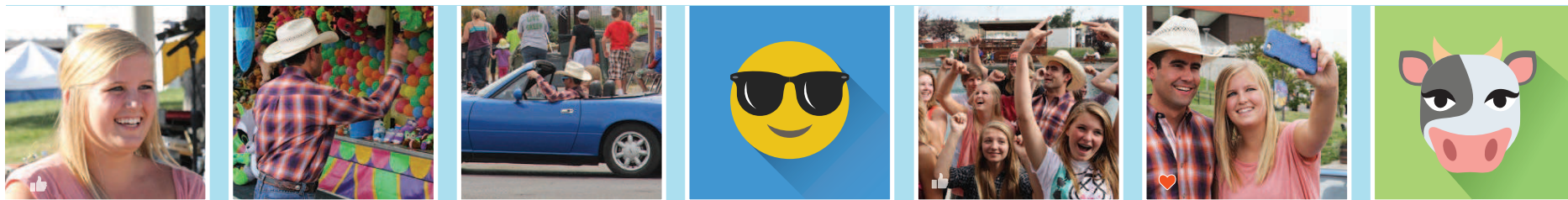
Since its creation, Yellowstone has become an internationally known and beloved icon of the American West. It is home to 61 species of mammals, 322 recorded species of birds, 16 species of fish, and 10 species of reptiles and amphibians.

If there's one thing anyone who has studied or enjoyed Yellowstone National Park knows, it's that nothing ever stays the same. From the fire of volcanoes to the ice of giant glaciers, from the return of wolves and the decline of elk, Yellowstone remains a unique and unusual sociological experiment of grand proportions.



Yellowstone is home to many stunning waterfalls, including Iris Falls on the Bechler River.

DIANE REN-KIN, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



#Share

Montana Fair

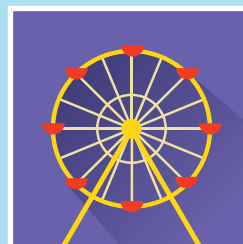
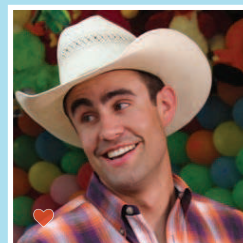
👍 August 12-20
BILLINGS, MONTANA

Buy the
ValuPass

7 SHOWS FOR \$64
Includes gate admission for all
9 DAYS of MONTANAFair!

Call: 406-256-2422 or 1-800-366-8538
Tickets: MetraPark Box Office &
Leslie's Hallmark at Rimrock Mall

www.montanafair.com



Friday **AUG. 12**

Jason Derulo
with DJ Jae Murphy

Saturday **AUG. 13**

Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias

Sunday **AUG. 14**

3 Doors Down
with special guest **Theory of a Deadman**

Supercross
August 16



Yellowstone River Roundup
PRCA Rodeo
August 18-20



GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

A bull moose grazes against the backdrop of the Teton Range in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

RYAN DORGAN, CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE



COURTESY PHOTO

The Grand Teton mountains as seen from Yellowstone National Park.

Mountainous park evokes a range of emotions

MANDY BURTON
Casper Star-Tribune

The sagebrush sea of the West yields to mountains in the northwest corner of Wyoming, where the Teton Range lords over the Idaho border.

Wisps of clouds huddle on the peaks more than 5,000 feet above the tourists at the Jackson Lake Lodge. The mountains dominate the landscape for miles, lording over Jenny Lake as though admiring their

own reflection.

This is the centerpiece of Grand Teton National Park, a playground for hikers, climbers, anglers, rafters and sightseers. At 13,776 feet, the park is striking. Glaciers nestle between the jagged peaks that jut from the earth.

But that iconic view is far from the only attraction. Alpine lakes dot the 480-square-mile park, and the Snake River twists through, ferrying rafts laden with

tourists past bald eagles, elk, moose and other wildlife. Near the clear, cold waters of Jenny Lake, hikers can get close to the Hidden Falls and survey the dramatic view from Inspiration Point.

Parts of this picturesque landscape were first protected in 1929 as Grand Teton National Park. In 1943, Jackson Hole National Monument was established, shielding other sections of land in the area. It was not until 1950 that the two merged to become the

Grand Teton National Park we know today, where 4.6 million people visited in 2015.

It's no surprise that the land was deemed worthy of protection. Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, plus the parkway that links them, as well as the surrounding national forests, contain most of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, which the park service calls one of the largest nearly intact

Please see **Grand Tetons**, Page A20



CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE FILE

Jackson Hole naturalist Margaret Murie

Reflections on a national park

What's been said about Grand Teton National Park

"The most remarkable heights in the great backbone of America are three elevated, insular mountains which are seen at a distance of one hundred and fifty miles, aptly designated as the Pilot Knobs, known as the Three Tetons."

— **Alexander Ross, 1800s fur trader**

"A beautiful piece of wild country in which people love to roam, and heart-lifting scenery. And a bit of wild history ... something which will never be exhausted."

— **Jackson Hole naturalist Margaret Murie**

"I end each hike with a John Muir quote. A visit to the mountains of Wyoming (Yellowstone) in 1885 inspired Muir to write: 'Climb the mountains and get their good

tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away like autumn leaves.' I ended the guided hike and was walking back to the visitor center when a visitor caught up to me. He said, 'Ranger Doug, I really appreciated what you had to say about inspirational views at our last top. You see, I have been diagnosed with cancer. In fact, I should be in the hospital right now. But I told my doctor I am delaying my surgery and treatment; I decided to visit Grand Teton National Park first. I need to get my head on straight before facing what I know will be pretty tough times for me. Thanks you for your inspirational words and for sharing that great John Muir quote.'"

— **Park Ranger Doug Crispin, from "The Wonder of It All 100 Stories From the National Park Service"**

Grand Tetons

From A19

temperate-zone ecosystems on the planet. The 34,375-square-mile area includes thermal features and wildlife habitat, along with some stunning natural landscapes.

Wildlife is also abundant. The ecosystem hosts one of the largest elk herds in North America, as well as one of the largest free-roaming bison herds in the nation. The world's longest migrating pronghorn herd summers in and near the park. Grand Teton also provides a home for every large predator native to the West, from grizzly bears and gray wolves to lynx and wolverines.

The wildlife draws countless visitors hoping for a peek at some of the rarest creatures, but also provides a sense of wild most people will never find elsewhere.

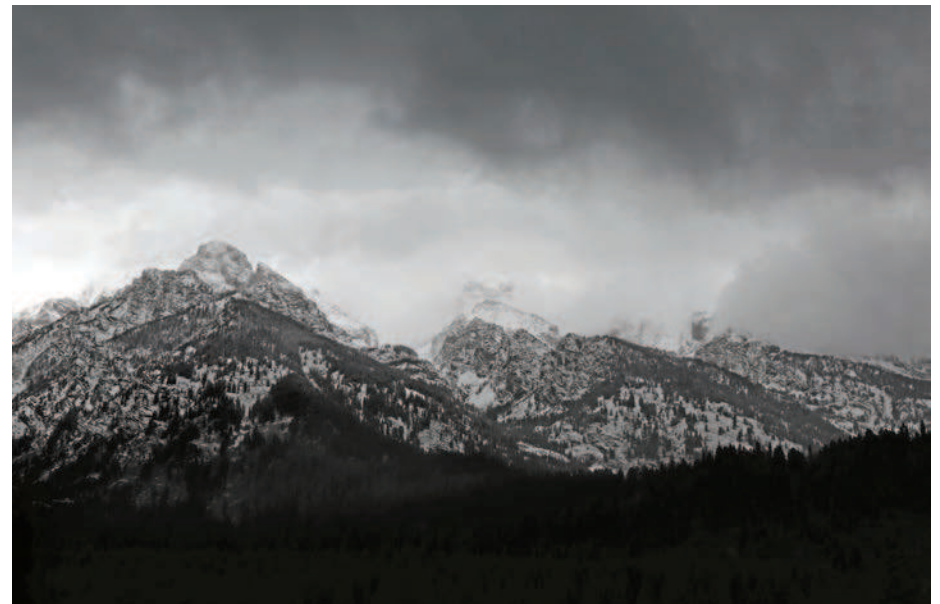
Please see **Grand Tetons**, Page A22

If you go

Grand Teton National Park is located in northwestern Wyoming; north of the town of Jackson, Wyo., and south of Yellowstone National Park off U.S. Highway 26/89/191.

The park is open 24 hours every day of the year. Seasonal road closures may limit auto access to some areas in the park during the winter. Highway 89/26/191 from Jackson, Wyo., to Flagg Ranch and the park's east boundary is open all year.

Entrance fees are \$30 for a private, noncommercial vehicle; \$25 for a motorcycle; or \$15 for each visitor 16 years and older entering by foot, bicycle, ski, or other. The fees provide the visitor with a 7-day entrance permit for Grand Teton National Park and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway.

Website is np.gov/grte.

ALAN ROGERS, CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE

Clouds shroud the peaks of the Teton Range, creating a surreal vibe in Grand Teton National Park.

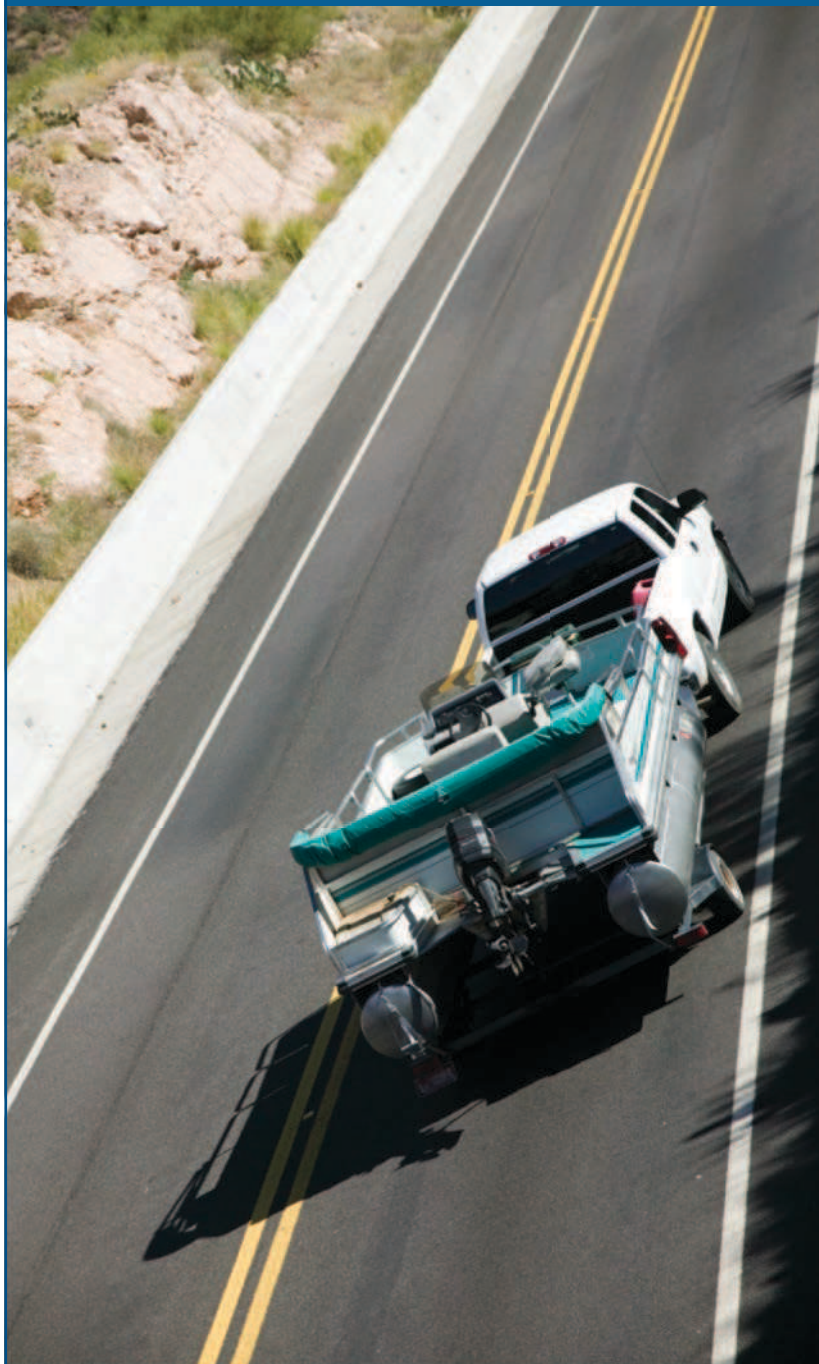
Washakie Museum & Cultural Center
Worland, Wyoming

2200 Big Horn Ave. 307-347-4102 washakiemuseum.org

Discover the Ancient Big Horn Basin - Geology, Paleontology, and Archaeology - Mammoth Hunters and Dinosaurs
Visit the Last West - History of the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming Johnson County War, Spring Creek Raid, and Settlement
National Geographic's *Greatest Photographs of the American West*
Northern Arapaho Artists Society Art Show
Traveling exhibitions on display through September 3, 2016
Embrace the Struggle the bronze art of Wyoming's Chris Navarro
Traveling exhibition on display September 15 to November 5, 2016

We need your help:

Please do your part to stop the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species in Montana waters.



CLEAN.
DRAIN.
DRY.

It's quick. It's the law.
And you could win a prize.

Clean, drain, and dry boats, trailers and fishing gear after each use, and always stop at roadside watercraft inspection stations.



*Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks*

Learn more: fwp.mt.gov



BRADLY J. BONER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourists and photographers gather to watch a boar grizzly forage near Pilgrim Creek Road in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Grand Teton National Park volunteers try to corral the motoring hordes of bear-loving people to keep them safely separated from grizzlies.

Grand Tetons

From A20

The region itself has been both a home and a destination for many groups of people over the years. First came the prehistoric Indians, 11,000 years ago. In the 1800s, the area became a hub for fur trapping and trading. In the late 1800s came the explorers and the climbers, and toward the end of that century and the beginning of the next, early settlers and ranchers began to call Jackson Hole home.

In 1926, the area won a high-profile admirer when John D. Rockefeller visited the park. He formed a company to buy land in the area. Eventually, that company donated 35,000 acres of land to the National Park Service.

Yellowstone, Grand Teton's big sister, is

just 10 miles away via the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Memorial Parkway, and many tourists make sure to visit both. But outdoor opportunities in the area aren't limited to the parks — Jackson itself is a skiing destination. Downtown Jackson boasts many shops and restaurants.

But for most visitors, the draw is the mountains themselves. Climbers make their way up peaks each summer. Those more adventurous souls lug skis up the Grand Teton in the winter to plummet off the top. Jackson resident Bill Briggs first skied the Grand in 1971 with a fused hip. He'll still tell you his story in between sets of his world famous Stagecoach Band on Sundays.

Other visitors travel from around the globe to watch as the sun sets behind the iconic peaks while bison, moose, elk or pronghorn ambling around the grasslands.

CARBON COUNTY WYOMING
GET YOUR WEST ON

Ready,
Set,
Explore!

wyomingcarboncounty.com
Sponsored by the Carbon County Visitors' Council

7th Annual Bitterroot Celtic Games & Gathering

August 20 -21, 2016 • Saturday 9am-10pm • Sunday 9am-4pm



SMALL TOWNS • BIG ADVENTURES

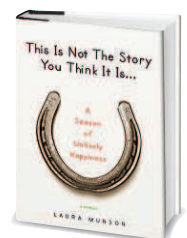
Tickets available online
Free Ceilidh Saturday at 7pm

Daly Mansion Grounds
251 Eastside Hwy, Hamilton, MT • www.bcg.org

Retreat in big sky beauty
with New York Times and International best-selling author

Laura Munson

Laura Munson's
HAVEN
WRITING RETREAT®
Find Your Words. Live Your Words.



Sept 7-11 & 21-25 (limited space)
Oct 5-9 & 19-23

Now booking for 2017
Go to Lauramunson.com
for more info

WHITEFISH, MONTANA

AMERICA'S REVOLUTION

MUSEUM OF IDAHO
MUSEUMOFIDAHO.ORG

Rebels
with a Cause

Jul 3 - Nov 26

IDAHO
www.visitidaho.org

NPS hidden gems in Wyoming

While Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks receive most of the attention, don't miss these hidden wonders in the National Park Service in Wyoming.

Oregon Trail

Four historic trails pass through Wyoming. But the Oregon Trail offers chances to see preserved ruts from passing carriages and re-enacted sites with stories of adventure, disease and hope. Check out Fort Laramie, once called the "grand old post" and learn about trails on each stage of the more than 2,000-mile journey.

Fossil Butte

Often referred to as "America's aquarium in stone," Fossil Butte offers some of the world's best preserved fossils. Prepare to see everything from fossilized fish and insects to mammals, birds and plants. The quality of the fossils is extraordinary and nearly unparalleled. Fossils are collected from the basin and sold across the globe.

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

Dip your toes in cool water of one of Wyoming's



WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM PHOTOS

Curious hikers examine part of the Oregon Trail through Wyoming.



Hikers make their way up a ridge line in the Bighorn Canyon recreation area in northern Wyoming.

most spectacular reservoirs. The recreation area offers ample outdoor fun

including boating, fishing, hiking and mountain biking. Visitors to this unique set-

ting north of Lovell can also find historic legacies like open range, family and dude

ranching, Native Americans like The Crow Tribe and fur traders such as Jim Bridger and Jedediah Smith.

TRAVELING AND NEED SOME HELP? OUR PARTS AND SERVICE DEPARTMENT WILL GET YOU BACK ON THE ROAD!



STOP BY & SEE OUR GREAT SELECTION OF RV'S

THE ROCKIES' LARGEST RV OUTFITTER
STALKUPS RV
SUPERSTORE

501 West Yellowstone • Casper, WY 82601
Phone: 307-577-9350 • Toll Free: 800-577-9350
<http://www.stalkupsrv.com>



Devils Tower is pictured rising above nearby farmland in Crook County, Wyoming.

RYAN DORGAN, CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A climber makes his way up the west face of Devils Tower. Climbing on the national monument in eastern Wyoming is allowed as long as no damage is done.

Arising amid the plains, a tower born of the earth

MANDY BURTON
Casper Star-Tribune

Above the pine forests of northeast Wyoming rises a rock formation rich in both natural and cultural history.

Devils Tower, which stands 867 feet from base to summit, cuts an imposing figure across the Western plains. The base of the tower is about a mile long, and the top is

about the size of a football field, according to the National Park Service which runs Devils Tower National Monument. People visit the country's first national monument to hike, climb, camp, stargaze and worship.

Trails crisscross the surrounding area, allowing hikers to see the monument from a variety of angles. For those seeking more adventure, climbing the vertical faces of the

monument is allowed, as long as climbers don't damage the rock. The climbing tradition stretches back to 1893, when a pair of local ranchers submitted the tower with wooden fence posts stuck into the side like a ladder. It is a technical climb with plenty of challenges — some of the routes are relatively simple; others are very difficult — but many people have accomplished it with

technical skills and equipment, including children under 10. About 4,000 climbers visit Devils Tower each year, the park service says.

"It seems to be impossible for people who haven't tried it, to understand just why climbing rocks is such fun," recalls

Please see **Devils Tower**, Page A26

Devils Tower

From A25

Jan Conn, a member of the first all-women technical ascent in 1952, on the National Park Service's website.

Those who plan to stay more than a day may camp at the national monument, although camping on the tower isn't permitted. Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis from May through October at the nearby Belle Fourche Campground.

Camping is a popular choice because the monument is also an ideal place to gaze at the night sky. Under the clear, quiet darkness, it's easy to see why the tower has been a sacred site for generations of Native Americans ever since they began to roam and reside on the plains.

The Devils Tower we see today was hundreds of millions of years in the making. According to the park service, it was formed by magma. Some scientists theorize it could be the ancient core of a long-extinct volcano. Others believe it could have come from a large, igneous rock that bulged but never reached the surface. Either way, it was not until wind and weather began to erode at the sedimentary rocks surrounding the tower that the landmark itself sloughed its shell and became visible. Now, the park service likens it to a handful of pencils tied together.

The tower's unique shape, size and texture naturally attracted people. The tower is sacred to many Native American tribes, and it plays a starring role in many rituals as well as stories and legends. They called it "Bear's Tipi" or "Bear Lodge" because bears were prominent in much of the lore they shared about how the iconic tower came to be, with its edges grooved by giant bear talons.

That same history has also brought controversy to Devils Tower. Native Americans say its name, granted by U.S. Army Lt. Col.

If you go

Devils Tower National Monument is located 33 miles northeast of Moorcroft, Wyo. via U.S. 14/24, or 27 miles northwest of Sundance, Wyo, via U.S. 14, or 9 miles south of Hulett, Wyo., via state Highway 24. Both main routes in are accessible from Interstate 90.

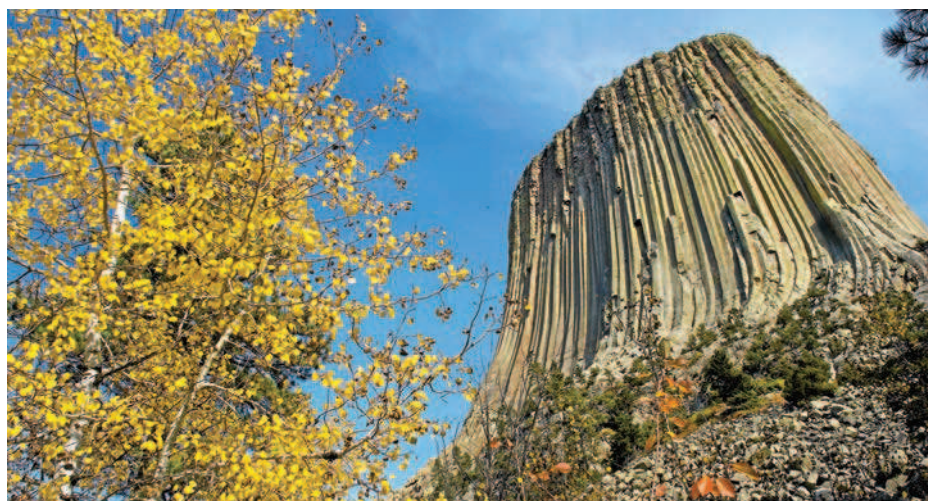
The monument is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week all year except Christmas and New Year's Day. The Visitor Center and the Devils Tower Natural History Association Bookstore are open 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mountain Time daily.

Ranger-led interpretive programs are offered Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Belle Fourche River Campground is open for the summer season. All trails are open. No pets are allowed on the trails. Please use caution when out exploring the Monument. Please remember to bring a refillable water bottle. Water is available.

Entrance fee is \$10 per vehicle. Website is nps.gov/deto.

Richard Irving Dodge — who wrote that he learned the name in 1875 from an Indian scout — represents evil spirits and casts those who worship there into the darkness of public perception. They are seeking to have the name changed to Bear Lodge. Opponents of the name change worry that it will confuse tourists and lead to fewer visits.

But no matter what it is called, there's a reason Devils Tower became the country's first national monument. Its otherworldliness has fascinated and captivated people for centuries. Its iconic shape has been memorialized on license plates and in movies like "Close Encounters of the Third Kind." It stands like a beacon on the edge of the Black Hills, visible from 30 or more miles away.



RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

WENDOVER, NEVADA

CASINO VACATION

PACKAGE

PACKAGE INCLUDES:
Round-Trip Airfare, 3 Night's Lodging, All Taxes & Fees and Valuable Coupon Book

FLIGHT FROM: CASPER, WY	\$129*	\$159*
	FRI, JULY 22 - JULY 25	MON, OCT 3 - OCTOBER 6 FRI, DEC 9 - DECEMBER 12

PEPPERMILL CONCERT HALL : Andrew Dice Clay (Adult Content) July 22
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WENDOVERFUN.COM : Rita Rudner and Robert Klein July 23

Book Online at WENDOVERFUN.COM Or call 866-FLY-WENDover (866-359-9363).
Reservations open 7 days a week.

* Per person double occupancy. Single add \$30. Montego Bay upgrade fee may apply. Reservations Required. Plane Operated by XTR Airways. See Operator Participant Agreement for further information. Availability may be limited. Must be 21. Add \$25 per bag for more than one checked bag. Golf clubs not allowed. Golf club rentals available at Toana Vista Golf Course. Fuel stop may be required. Flight times subject to change. Management reserves all rights.

RAINBOW HOTEL + CASINO **Peppermill HOTEL + CASINO** **MONTGO BAY CASINO - RESORT**

Reflections on a monument

What's been said about Devils Tower National Monument:

"A dark mist lay over the Black Hills, and the land was like iron. At the top of the ridge I caught sight of Devil's Tower upthrust against the gray sky as if in the birth of time, the core of the earth had broken through its crust and the motion of the world was begun. There are things in nature that engender an awful quiet in the heart of man; Devils Tower is one of them."

— **Writer N. Scott Momaday**

"In the Sioux Tribe long ago was a brave warrior who often went alone into the wilderness where he would fast and worship the Great Spirit in solitude. Being alone helped him to strengthen his courage so that in the future he could carry out his plans.

One day this warrior took his buffalo skull and went along into the wilderness to worship. Standing at the base of Mato Tipila after he had worshipped for two days, he suddenly found himself on top of this high rock. He was very much frightened as he did not know how he would get down. After ap-

pealing to the Great Spirit he went to sleep. When he awoke he was very glad to find that he was again at the base of this high rock.

He saw that he was standing at the door of a big bear's lodge as there was foot prints of a very big bear there. He could tell that the cracks in the big rock were made by the big bear's claws. So he knew that all the time he had been on top of this big rock he had been standing on a big bear's lodge.

From this time on his nation called this big high rock Mato Tipila and they went there often to worship. The buffalo skull is still on top of this big high rock and can be seen on the highest point."

— **Dick Stone, recording a legend told by Short Bull, who lived a short distance west of Oglala, S.D., on July 31, 1932.**

"All the people who come here don't know the energy of the sacred site. I pray people have enough respect to just come here with a good mind."

— **Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Great Sioux Nation**



CASPER STAR-TRIBUNE FILE

Arvol Looking Horse



Congratulations on your 100 year Anniversary

from the team at the Radisson Colonial Hotel

- Located half way between Glacier Park and Yellowstone so great for day trips to either park from Helena
- Easy access off Hwy 15
- Lots of free parking
- Completely Renovated
- Free Wireless Internet
- Ridgeline Restaurant & Lounge
- On-site Fitness Center
- Microwaves and Mini-fridge in every guest room
- 17,000 sq. ft. of Banquet & Event Space Including 14 Flexible Meeting Rooms

To receive a 15% discount from this ad call or go on line; use discount special code: **Parkan**

Radisson
COLONIAL HOTEL

Radisson Colonial Hotel
2301 Colonial Dr | Helena, MT 59601
406-443-2100 | www.radisson.com/helenamt

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL



Mount Rushmore on Sunday, April 8, 2012.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A nation's place to honor its presidents and its past

TOM GRIFFITH

Rapid City Journal

Carved from the ageless granite of South Dakota's Black Hills, Mount Rushmore National Memorial was originally envisioned as a tribute to some of the American West's legendary heroes.

But when famed sculptor Gutzon Borglum was enlisted to carve the monument in 1925, he successfully lobbied promoters to symbolize in stone the true spirit of a nation. Thus, the towering visages of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt came to represent the birth, growth, preservation and development of the United States of America.

Carved by Borglum and a rag-tag collection of drill-dusty miners between 1927 and 1941, 90 percent of the memorial was created using dynamite. So skilled were the workers that they could grade the contours of the lips, cheeks and brows to within inches of the finished surface solely using explosives. Workers using pneumatic drills followed, leaving the faces as smooth as a concrete sidewalk.

Miraculously, no one died in the six and a half years of carving that occurred at Mount Rushmore over a 14-year period. All told, "America's Shrine of Democracy," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt once called it, cost a bit under \$1 million, less than building a mile of interstate highway today.

Fearing he would leave a mystery for future generations, in 1938 Borglum and his crew started carving the Hall of Records in a deep canyon directly behind the faces. In this solid stone repository, Borglum hoped to stash some of the nation's most treasured documents, as well as a record of the contributions of the four presidents and why

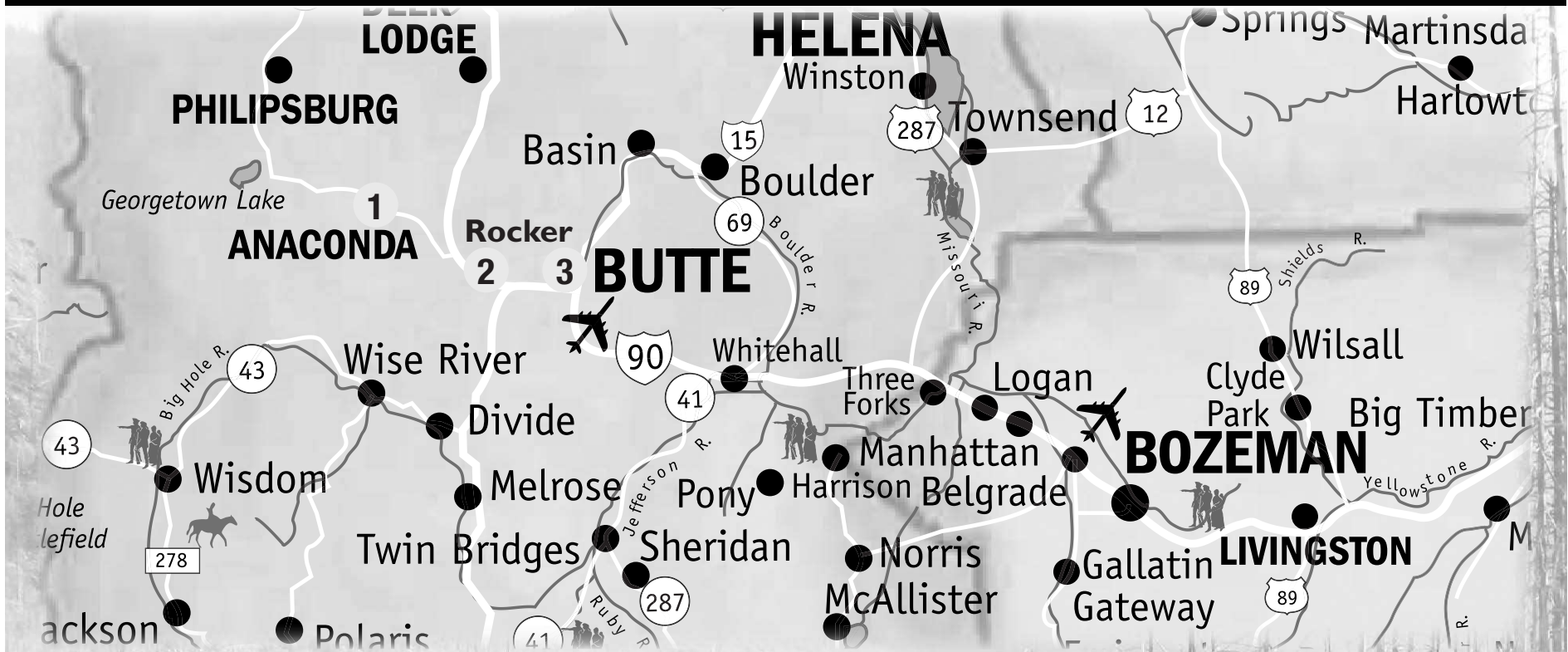
Please see **Rushmore**, Page 31

RIGHT: Riders pass Mount Rushmore during the 2009 Sturgis cycle rally. The scenic ride is a popular one with visitors during the rally.

JOURNAL FILE



SOUTHWEST MONTANA HOT SPOTS



1 ANACONDA

Community Hospital of Anaconda

H 401 W. Pennsylvania
(406) 563-8500
communityhospitalofanaconda.org

Dee Motor Company

D 1200 E. Commercial
(406) 563-5225
www.deemotors.com
GM, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Chevy

Glacier Bank Member FDIC

ATM AVAILABLE 307 E. Park Ave
(406) 563-5203
www.glacierbank.com

Subway Eat Fresh

S 1420 E. Park (in Thriftway)
(406) 563-6570
Hours: Sun-Thurs 5am-11pm;
Fri & Sat 5am-Midnight

2 ROCKER

Subway Eat Fresh

S Town Pump Plaza
(406) 782-0101

3 BUTTE

Best Western Plus Butte Plaza Inn

B 2900 Harrison Ave.
(406) 494-3500
bestwestern.com/PlusButtePlazaInn

Butte Copper Company

C 2125 Harrison Ave.
(406) 494-2070
www.buttecoppercompany.com
Hours: Mon-Sat. 9am-8pm;
Sun 10am-5pm

Chicken Shack - KOA

C 1601 Kaw Ave
Located at the KOA
(406) 782-0663
Hours: 9am-9pm Everyday

Glacier Bank Member FDIC

ATM AVAILABLE 1880 Harrison Ave.
3701 Harrison Ave.
807 So. Montana
(corner of Iron and Montana)
www.glacierbank.com

3 BUTTE

Holiday Inn Express

H 2609 Harrison Ave.
(406) 782-2000
www.hiexpress.com/Butte.com

Horizon Credit Union

ATM AVAILABLE 1555 Harrison Ave.
(406) 723-8288
www.hzcu.org

Metals Sports Bar & Grill

S Corner of Park & Main
Hours: Sun-Tues 11am-9pm;
Wed & Thurs 11am-9:30pm;
Fri & Sat 11am-10:30pm

M&M Bar & Cafe

M 9 S. Main St.
Hours: Mon-Sun 6am-9pm

Mackenzie River Pizza, Grill & Pub NEW LOCATION

P 3450 Monroe Ave.
(406) 782-0020
Hours: Sun-Thurs 11am-10pm;
Fri & Sat 11am-11pm

3 BUTTE

Matt's Place

M 2339 Placer St.
(406) 782-8049
Hours: Thurs-Sat 11:30am-7pm;
Closed Sun & Mon; Tues & Wed
11:30am-7pm

Old Butte Historical Adventures

T 117 N. Main St.
(406) 498-3432
www.buttetours.info
Reservations requested

Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

P 2900 Harrison Ave. #2
(406) 494-2490
www.perkinsrestaurants.com

Uno's Lounge

U 3235 Harrison Ave. #1
(406) 494-1165

Rushmore

From A29

they grace a mountain in the middle of America. The following summer, as war raged across Europe, Congress directed Borglum to cease work on the Hall of Records and concentrate his efforts on finishing the presidential portraits.

A half-century later, the Borglum family and the nonprofit Mount Rushmore Society resurrected the sculptor's dream and, on Aug. 9, 1998, the National Park Service, joined by four generations of the Borglum family, sealed a titanium vault in the floor of the Hall containing the words of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, as well as biographies of each of the presidents and an explanation of why they are immortalized at the mountain memorial.

While some visitors to the Four Faces of Freedom simply give them a glance, then leave to explore the grandeur of the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore offers so much more.

Consider having breakfast with the presidents, when morning light provides optimal viewing and the best photo opportunities. Take a break from the car and

If you go

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is located at 13000 S.D. Highway 244, near Keystone, S.D., about 24 miles south of Rapid City. Visitors traveling by car from the east should use Interstate 90 Exit 61 and follow the signs; from the west, use I-90 Exit 57 and follow U.S. Highway 16 southwest to Keystone; and from the south, motorists should follow Highway 385 north to Highway 244, which is the road leading to the memorial.

Weather permitting, the grounds of Mount Rushmore are open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day of the year. Its Information Center, Visitor Center, Gift Shop and Carver's Café are open every day except Dec. 25.

There is no entrance fee at Mount Rushmore. However, there is an \$11 fee to park at the memorial. For more information, call 605-574-2523 or go online at nps.gov/moru.

walk through the forest on the Presidential Trail to the base of the mountain, and on to the often-overlooked Sculptor's Studio. If you're traveling with children, check out the Youth Exploration Area, new in 2015, with interpretive programming geared to the youngest adventurer.



Ice and snow hang from the long, shaggy hair of this mountain goat nanny on an early December morning near Mount Rushmore National Memorial. Mountain goats can often be seen in the early mornings at the memorial site.

RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

The hallowed site is also home to frequent citizenship ceremonies where immigrants who qualify are sworn in as America's newest citizens.

Since it was opened to the public in 1941, more than 111 million people have gazed at the granite likenesses of four of the nation's most revered leaders. Celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, the Shrine of De-

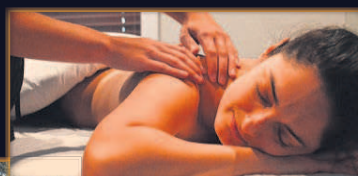
mocracy attracts nearly 3 million visitors annually, who revel in \$56 million in recent improvements that include the popular Avenue of Flags, a museum, a new Presidential Trail and theaters, and a spacious amphitheater beneath the faces that hosts a night-lighting ceremony — among the most popular interpretive programs in the National Parks system.

SARATOGA

resort & spa

Southern Wyoming's Premier Hot Springs & Spa Destination

70' MINERAL HOT SPRINGS POOL & TEEPEE-COVERED HOT POOLS
WESTERN GUEST ROOMS AND SUITES
HEALING WATERS SPA
SNOWY MOUNTAIN PUB & BREWERY
FINE DINING ON THE OUTDOOR TERRACE
SARATOGA PUBLIC GOLF COURSE
JEEPS, ATVs, BIKES, RIVER KAYAK, TUBE RENTALS



SMB Golf Tourment
Shotgun Start at 10am • \$40pp
(includes Beerfest wristband, cart & one raffle ticket for prizes!)

SMB BEERFEST
WYOMING & COLORADO BREWERIES
LIVE MUSIC • GERMAN-THEMED FOOD
Noon - 5pm • Wristbands \$20
Purchase in Advance online!
Must be 21+ to Attend

2-NIGHT STAY DEALS!

601 E. PIC PIKE ROAD • SARATOGA, WYOMING 82331
800-594-0178 • 307-326-5261 • www.saratogaresortandspa.com



Franklin D. Roosevelt

Reflections on a memorial

What's been said about Mount Rushmore National Memorial:



"Hence, let us place there, carved high, as close to heaven as we can, the words of our leaders, their faces, to show posterity what manner of men they were. Then breathe a prayer that these records will endure until the wind and the rain alone shall wear them away."

— **Mount Rushmore sculptor Gutzon Borglum**

"The union of these four presidents carved on the face of the everlasting hills of South Dakota will constitute a distinctly national monument. It will be decidedly American in its conception, in its magnitude, in its meaning and altogether worthy of our country. No one can look upon it understandingly without realizing that it is a picture of hope fulfilled... the people of the

future will see history and art combined to portray the spirit of patriotism."

— **President Calvin Coolidge, dedication of site, 1927**

"On many occasions, when a new project is presented to you on paper and then, later on, you see the accomplishment, you are disappointed: but it is just the opposite of that in what we are looking at now.

I had seen the photographs: I had seen the drawings and I had talked with those who are responsible for this great work, and yet I had had no conception until about ten minutes ago not only of its magnitude but of its permanent beauty and of its permanent importance.

Mr. Borglum has well said that this can be a monument and an inspiration for the continuance of the democratic-republican form of government, not only in our own beloved country, but, we hope, throughout the world."

— **President Franklin D. Roosevelt, at dedication of Lincoln's face, 1936**



100 YEARS OF EXCITEMENT. There's plenty to see and do. Start planning your Cody, Wyoming vacation today. 1-800-393-2639 or yellowstonecountry.org.



Buffalo Bill's
CODY/YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

THE WILDEST WAY INTO YELLOWSTONE



Bikers make their way through one of the tunnels with views of Mount Rushmore along the Peter Norbeck Scenic Byway on Highway 16A south of Keystone.

CHRIS HUBER, JOURNAL STAFF



Evening light illuminates the rocky landscape in Badlands National Park in South Dakota.



The aurora borealis alights over Badlands National Park in South Dakota.

RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

A rough, rugged landscape with awe-inspiring views

TOM GRIFFITH
Rapid City Journal

There may be no stranger moonscape of windswept grasslands bordered by ragged ridgelines and chiseled spires than that found in the other-worldly Badlands National Park.

Once described by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer as “hell with the fires burned out,” this 244,000-acre preserve, ravaged over eons by the ceaseless forces of wind and rain, easily ranks as the most unusual

landscape in South Dakota.

French fur traders who first explored this region of the American West in the early 1800s, labeled it “les mauvaises terres a traverser,” or “bad lands to travel across,” while the Lakota referred to it as mako sica, or “land bad.”

Fortunately, a couple centuries later the addition of modern amenities, including touring roads, interpretive trails, a visitor center, restaurant, gift shop, and lodging all have made a visit to the Badlands in western

South Dakota decidedly more welcoming.

Even in 1935, when famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright made a trip to the Black Hills to see sculptor Gutzon Borglum at Mount Rushmore, a brief tour of the Badlands left him in awe of a landscape he had never previously encountered.

“I’ve been about the world a lot and pretty much over our own country; but I was totally unprepared for that revolution called the Dakota Bad Lands,” he wrote to Huron newspaper publisher Bob Lusk.

Preserved by Congress in 1929, Badlands National Monument was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt a decade later. In 1976, the size of the monument more than doubled when 133,000 acres were added from the adjacent Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and in 1978, Congress elevated the preserve to national park status.

Today, more than 1 million visitors a year

Please see **Badlands**, Page 36



RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE PHOTOS

The sun rises behind a buffalo near the Sage Creek area of Badlands National Park in March.

Badlands

From 35

breathe in some of the cleanest air in the world and explore interpretive trails traipsing through some of the richest fossil beds on the planet, and they frolic in wilderness areas unlike any other in America.

While the vast majority of visitors to this park stay on the well-marked Badlands Loop Road, a frequent visitor (or experienced ranger) would tell you to park at the Sheep Mountain Table Overlook and walk two miles down the two-track lane to Cedar Butte, identifiable by its numerous cedar trees. Here, one can enjoy a great view of the rugged badlands formations.

Some may be inspired to visit Red Shirt Table Overlook, as few others do. Located north of BIA2 along BIA41, the Red Shirt Table Overlook in the South Unit of the park provides a stunning panoramic view looking east at the formations in the Stronghold Unit. To the west is an exquisite view of the Black Hills, known to the Lakota as the Paha Sapa or “Hills Black.”

But perhaps the least-visited place in Badlands National Park is its largest — the 64,000-acre Sage Creek Wilderness Area — a 100-square-mile marvel. If time permits, park at the Sage Creek Campground and follow the creek-bed. You may observe bison cooling off in the creek, or even see fish and turtles. Look for the Pierre Shale Formation, evidence of the ancient seaway that once covered the central portion of the U.S. The Pierre

If you go

Badlands National Park is located 75 miles east of Rapid City off Interstate 90. For those traveling west on I-90, take Exit 131 (Interior) south and follow the signs about 3 miles to the Northeast Entrance. For those traveling east on I-90, take Exit 110 at Wall and follow the signs about 7 miles to the Pinnacles Entrance. No public transportation services the park, but some tour companies offer visits to the Badlands.

The Badlands Loop Road is a good way to take in the park's major features, with many vistas along the way.

Entrance fees vary at Badlands, ranging from \$7 for an individual on foot or bicycle and \$10 for a motorcycle, to \$15 for a non-commercial vehicle. All are valid for seven days. An annual park pass costs \$30.

Hours of operation vary by season. For specific hours, visit nps.gov/badl or call 605-433-5361.

Shale is black sediment, containing fossils such as ammonites, bacculites and even teeth from a Mosasaur.

Use sunscreen while visiting the Badlands and carry water on hikes. Shutterbugs will find morning and dusk ideal for photographs, when the lingering light pulls vivid colors from the striations of this ever-changing landscape. And don't discount the darkness here, for the Badlands afford visitors some of the best stargazing on the planet.



SOUTH DAKOTA



The Badlands Loop Road takes visitors throughout the unique landscape in Badlands National Park.

Where Anything is possible

Black Hills State University
BHSU.EDU

GoPro award-winning photo by BHSU student Bryce Boser

The Fun Way to YELLOWSTONE

Wind River HOTEL & CASINO
RIVERTON, WY

Located in the HEART OF WYOMING

ADVENTURE PACKAGES Whitewater Rafting • Golf & More
JOIN THE FUN Over 800 Slot Machines • Blackjack
Poker • Roulette • 3 Restaurants • 2 Gift Shops

WindRiverHotelCasino.com
or call 866.657.1604

Book Your Adventure Package Today!

Reflections on a national park

What's been said about Badlands National Park

"What I saw gave me an indescribable sense of mysterious otherwhere — a distant architecture, ethereal, touched, only touched with a sense of Egyptian, Mayan drift and silhouette. As we rode, or seemed to be floating upon a splendid winding road that seemed to understand it all and just where to go, we rose and fell between its delicate parallels of rose and cream and sublime shapes, chalk white, fretted against a blue sky with high floating clouds; the sky itself seemed only there to cleanse and light the vast harmonious building scheme."



Wright

"...the summer sun pours its rays on the bare white walls, which only are reflected on the wary traveler with double intensity, not oppressing him with the heat, but so dazzling his eyes that he is affected with temporary blindness. I have spent many days explor-

ing this region when the thermometer was 112, and there was no water within fifteen miles. It is only to the geologist that this place can have any permanent attractions. He can wind his way through the wonderful canyons among some of the grandest ruins in the world, at the foot of [which] the curious fossil treasures are found."

— **Ferdinand Hayden, 1866**

"Fancy yourself on the hottest day in summer in the hottest spot of such a place without water — without an animal and scarce an insect astir — without a single flower to speak pleasant things to you and you will have some idea of the utter loneliness of the Bad Lands."

— **Thaddeus A Culbertson 1850**

"The Badlands National Monument is part of the greatest badland-eroded section in North America; I can think of no other geographic area of like-size that has the unusual natural beauty, the undisturbed land and animal life and the wealth of scientific information to offer the public."

— **Dr. James D. Bump, director of the Museum of Geology, S.D. School of Mines and Technology, 1954**



RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

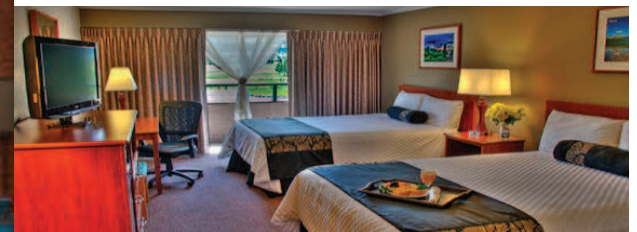
Visitors stroll along a raised walkway near the Cedar Pass area of Badlands National Park.




**GENUINE.
MONTANA.
EXPERIENCE.**



HOT SPRINGS LODGING DINING GOLF SPA



Centrally located between Montana's two National Parks. Yellowstone and Glacier.



FAIRMONT
HOT SPRINGS RESORT

FairmontMontana.com | 800.332.3272



WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK

A bull elk feeds on shrubs that still protrude above the gathering snows during winter in Wind Cave National Park.

RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE



RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

Rather than flying off like most wild eagles do when approached, this bird seemed eager to pose for the camera recently in Wind Cave National Park.

Where winds of time whisper secret stories

TOM GRIFFITH
Rapid City Journal

Bordered by the Black Hills National Forest to the west and windswept grasslands to the east, Wind Cave National Park affords visitors 33,923 acres of above-ground beauty teeming with wildlife and 145 miles of mapped passageways as well as underground lakes below the surface.

Bison, elk, coyote, antelope, prairie dogs, black-footed ferrets and 215 species of birds inhabit the forests and mixed prairie grasslands of this system, the first cave ever protected by the federal government. Meanwhile, below ground, the dark recesses of this world-class cave support 95 percent of

the world's boxwork formations and some of the rarest geologic features on the planet.

The Wind Cave area has been protected since 1903, when President Theodore Roosevelt named it America's eighth National Park. But, exploration of the cave began long before that when Lakota Sioux Indians traveling through the Black Hills noticed a whistling noise emanating from its narrow entrance.

In the spring of 1881, brothers Jesse and Tom Bingham happened upon the same 12-by-10 inch hole and the air gushing from the ground knocked the hat right off of Jesse's head.

When the South Dakota Mining Co.

claimed the ground in 1890, they named J.D. McDonald as its manager. His son, Alvin, began recording his trips into Wind Cave and his diary describes explorations done between 1891 and 1893.

While the McDonalds claimed 97 miles of passages had been recorded, the National Park Service contends only 5-8 miles were known to these early cave explorers.

The first official survey of Wind Cave occurred in April 1902, when just 4,509 feet were recorded. Mapping began in earnest in the 1950s, and between 1963 and 1965, Herb and Jan Conn, who had previously explored more than 60 miles of Jewel Cave, made significant discoveries that included a tight

passageway that "spilled" over into miles of unexplored passageways. The Conns also found the routes to Calcite Lake and the Club Room.

From 1970 to 1973, the Windy City Grotto, a Chicago-based caving club, helped survey more than 20 miles of previously unknown passages and made major finds – including Windy City Lake (lowest point in the cave) and Half Mile Hall (largest room yet discovered).

Today, Wind Cave ranks as the sixth-longest cave in the world and the exploration continues. No one familiar with the cave's

Please see **Wind Cave**, Page A41

Reflections on a national park

What's been said about Wind Caves National Park:



McDonald

"Have given up the idea of finding the end of Wind Cave."

— **Veteran cave explorer Alvin McDonald, 1891**

"Beyond Union College we ducked under a ledge that was completely coated with frostwork. What a fine display of crystals and just off one of the trails that thousands of people walk by every year.

Further down the passage we found old newspapers dated back to the 1890s. Early

cave travelers had used these papers to wrap up frostwork crystals so they could be removed from the cave. The evidence of cave vandalism in this passage almost made me cry. Incredibly beautiful crystals, some of which took perhaps thousands of years to form, had been stripped from the cave."

— **From the journal of cave explorer Jim Pisarowicz, 1985**

"We then sit down and look in black amazement, almost speechless, at the scenery around us."

— *Unknown Wind Cave visitor, 1890*

"There is more cave down there than you ever dreamed."

— **Unknown cave explorer, 1984**

"The research in Wind Cave has provided an important addition to the knowledge of cave life in western states.

Many caves in the eastern half of the U.S. have been thoroughly researched, but this was the first attempt to compile a complete record of life from a western cave.

The lack of moisture is the chief limiting factor of western cave life.

But any careful searching in the future in any of the bigger western cave systems should uncover some more important finds in the field of cave biology."

— **Journal of Stewart Peck, 1959 National Speleological Society fauna study**



PHOTO COURTESY SD TOURISM

Well known for its display of boxwork formations, Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota's Black Hills is one of the world's longest and most complex caves. The above-ground portion contains a variety of landscapes ranging from forest to prairie.

SOAK IN A CELEBRATION

Happy 100th Birthday, National Park Service!!

Hot Springs, SD • Southern Black Hills • Home of Wind Cave National Park



The Mammoth Site

of Hot Springs, SD, Inc.

Experience a working paleontological dig site and museum.

Soak in the Discovery...

1800 US 18 Bypass Hot Springs, SD
605-745-6017
www.mammothsite.org

* This institution is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary

Celebrating 27 years
of Wild Horse Freedom &
the Conservation of Natural Lands

www.WildMustangs.com
Open Year-Round

Dayton O. Hyde's

SOAK IN NATURAL WONDERS

450 Rooms | Museums | Restaurants
Shopping | Galleries | Outdoor Activities
Riverside Walking Trails & City Parks

Vacation Packages Available
Call 888-745-4149 for details or
visit www.hot-springs-sd.com/hodging

Area Chamber of Commerce
(605) 745-4140 • hot-springs-sd.com
#SoakinHotSprings



Wind Cave

From A39

history and mystery believes the end will be discovered anytime soon.

Hiking in Wind Cave National Park is a lesser-known activity and one of the best-kept secrets in the Black Hills. And, a back country camping area in the northern part of the park is ideal for a weekend getaway.

The park has 30 miles of hiking trails, some that follow streams, climb canyons, wander across prairie dog towns, and mount hills. But perhaps the best trail is the one you find yourself. Avid hikers can strike out on their own without having to follow any trail at all.

Take the time to observe wildlife for more than a few minutes. Watch how a bison herd moves ("Take a bite, take a step," is the old phrase). Which cow is the lead cow? Who's following who? It's so easy to drive by, spend a couple of minutes looking at the wildlife, and then move on. Instead, plan to spend an hour or so just watching a herd of bison or elk. Rest assured; they're also watching you.

Revel in the night sky. There is some light pollution around the edges of the park, but directly overhead, it's amazingly clear. Just hang out at an overlook on a warm summer evening, listen to the birds and the wind combing through the

If you go

Wind Cave National Park is located in southwestern South Dakota in the southern Black Hills.

From Rapid City, follow S.D. Highway 79 south about 50 miles to U.S. Highway 385. Turn right and continue through Hot Springs, and go 6 miles north to Wind Cave National Park. The visitor center is located 11 miles north of Hot Springs, about a half-mile west of the highway. There is no public transportation serving the park, but several tour companies offer visits to Wind Cave. The nearest commercial airport is Rapid City Regional Airport.

The park phone number is 605-745-4600, or visit online at nps.gov/wica.

There are no fees to drive through or hike in the park. There are fees associated with touring the cave and camping. Tickets for most tours are first-come, first-served. Reservations are accepted for larger groups. Visit the website for visitor center hours, tour times and costs, which range from \$10 to \$30.

branches of Ponderosa pines and take in the sweet smell of a mixed-grass prairie.

Plan a night with a full moon, or when you can safety watch a thunderstorm out on the plains, each of which can make an evening visit even more special. Just close your eyes and realize this place is a world away from your regular day.



A ferret pokes its head above the ground to look for predators on the grounds of Wind Cave National Park.

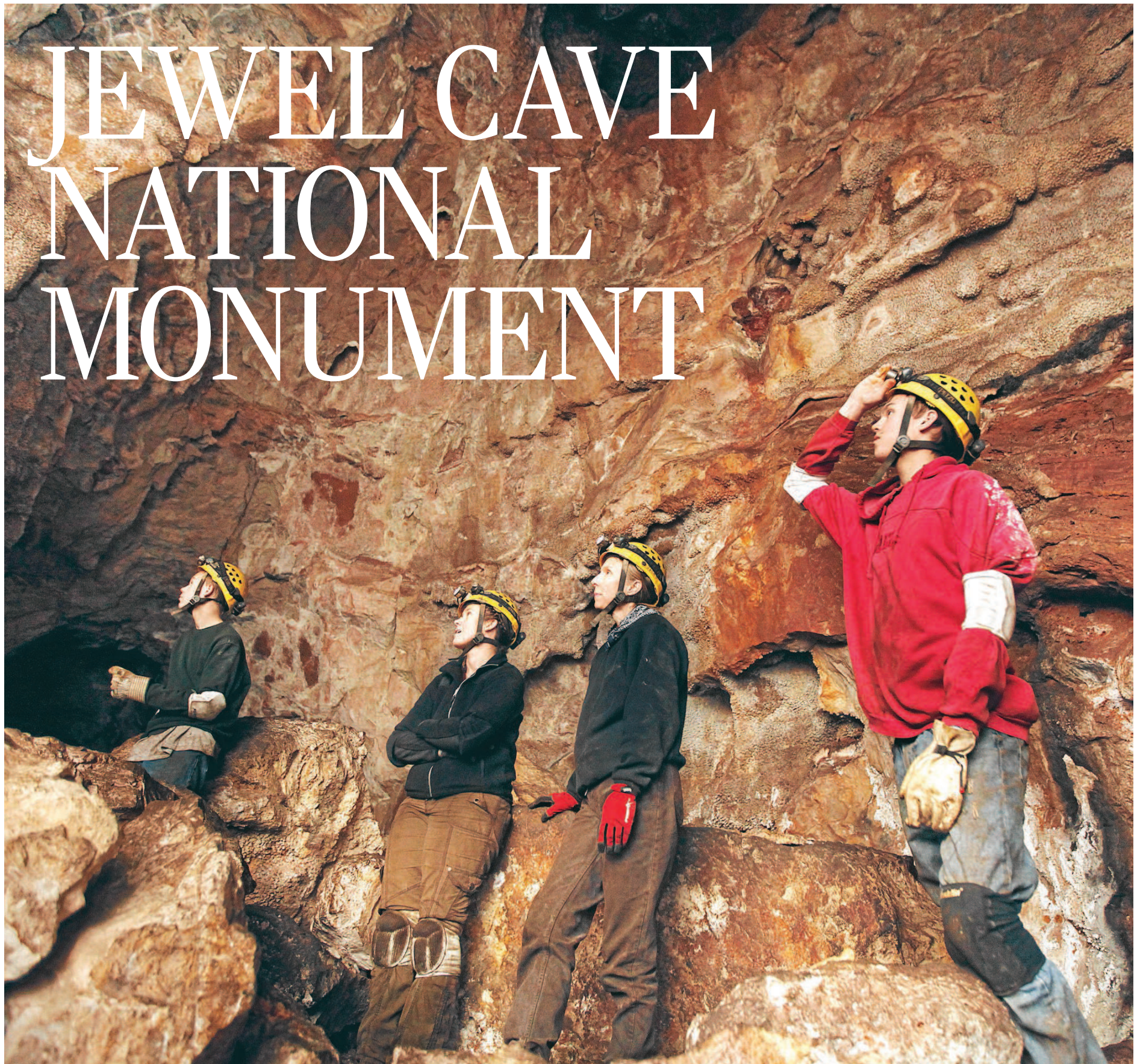
PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

“I have the best job in the world. Here at the Meals on Wheels kitchen, we prepare about 300 hot, nutritious meals for our clients each day.” – Vicky said

And we're glad you do. In fact, we're proud to partner with you and many other community organizations to help make life better for everyone.

How about seconds, Vicky?

©2016 • 2527_16



JOURNAL FILE

Jewel Cave National Monument continues to attract a steady stream of visitors and researchers who are eager to learn about what lies below the Earth's surface.

A natural wonder set below the Earth's surface

TOM GRIFFITH
Rapid City Journal

In an age when satellites have mapped the vast majority of the Earth's surface, from its highest peaks to its deepest watery recesses, caves still constitute an "underground wilderness" so vast that scientists are only now coming to understand the scope and complexity of the subterranean labyrinth that exists beneath our feet.

At nearly 182 miles of mapped passageways, Jewel Cave National Monument ranks as the third-longest cave in the world. But barometric wind studies conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, as well as other research, indicate that those known passages may constitute less than 5 percent of what actually exists.

The exploration of Jewel Cave began in 1900 when prospectors Albert and Frank Michaud and friend Charlie Bush searched out the source of wind they heard gushing through the rocks in Hell Canyon about 13 miles west of the town of Custer, S.D.

Too small to allow human entry and in keeping with their mining claim, the Michauds enlarged the hole using dynamite. Then, in the dank, dark bowels of the Black Hills, the three would-be explorers discovered underground crawl spaces and cramped rooms coated with magnificent calcite crystals that twinkled like "jewels" in their lantern light.

Please see **Jewel Cave**, Page A45

Dan and Lydia Austin along with other cavers helped discover more than 2,000 feet of virgin passages in Jewel Cave. They poked around a lead that had not been explored since the 1960s. After moving some rocks, they found a new, large open area that they dubbed "Hidden Loft."

RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE





RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

While Jewel Cave contains all of the common calcite formations, one very rare formation called a hydromagnesite balloon exists as well. They are created when an unknown gas inflates a pasty substance formed by the precipitation of the magnesium carbonate hydroxide mineral. The balloons are as fragile as a bubble blown with chewing gum.

Reflections on a monument

What's been said about Jewel Cave National Monument

"It's like an ever-changing obstacle course; nothing is ever the same. I want Jewel Cave to go on forever."

— **Mike Wiles, chief of resource management for the cave.**



Mike Wiles

"Caves are one of the last frontiers on the planet. We mapped the ocean floor, but we probably have thousands of miles of cave passages that we have not yet found. Caves are a whole other world. Rarely do we get to explore the underground wilderness – a world that is always

under our feet. Imagine, we may have seen as little as 5 percent of this cave so far."

— **Ken Zortman, park ranger at Jewel Cave National Monument**

"Immerse yourself within the third-longest cave in the

world. With over 180 miles of mapped and surveyed passages, this underground wilderness appeals to human curiosity. Its splendor is revealed through fragile formations and glimpses of brilliant color. Its maze of passages lure explorers, and its scientific wealth remains a mystery. This resource is truly a jewel in the National Park Service."

— **From the National Park Service website**

"She's a very complicated cave."

— **Cave explorer Lydia Austin, who helped discover 2,000 feet of new passages in 2013**

Explore our neck of the woods ...

- Home Decor • Clothing
- Old Hickory Furniture



Historic Downtown Custer, SD
 506 Mt. Rushmore Rd.
 M-F 10AM-5:30PM
 Sat 10AM-5PM
 Sun 11AM-4PM
 605-673-6400 • walkwoods.com



CRAZY HORSE MEMORIAL
WORLD'S LARGEST
 Mountain Carving in Progress!

© Crazy Horse Memorial, Crazy Horse, 1948 scale model

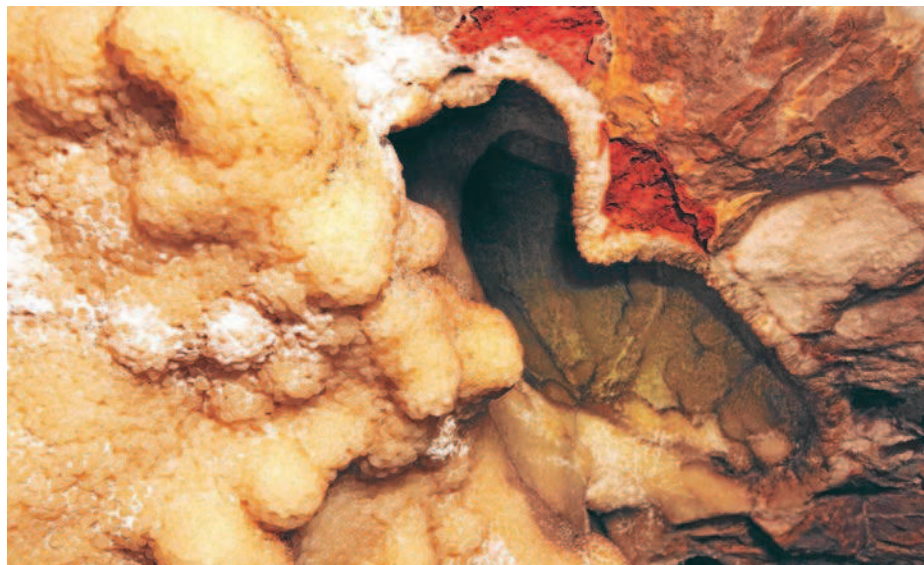
Open Year-Round!

INDIAN MUSEUM OF NORTH AMERICA® & Cultural Center

Gift Shop, Snack Shop & Restaurant and more!

Laser Light Show & Native American Performers (In Season)

crazyhorsememorial.org
 HWY 16/385 • 605.673.4681
 Between Hill City & Custer, SD



BENJAMIN BRAYFIELD, RAPID CITY JOURNAL

After the Michaud brothers found the cave's natural opening, they enlarged it with dynamite. Once inside, they found a cavern lined with calcite crystals, which led them to name it Jewel Cave.

Jewel Cave

From A43

The trio soon realized that what they had discovered had an enduring value well beyond the minerals they might extract from the ground and by autumn 1900, it became clear they intended to develop the natural wonder into a tourist attraction.

According to National Park Service accounts, over the next decade the three men "constructed a trail within the cave, built a lodge up on the rim of Hell Canyon, and even organized the 'Jewel Cave Dancing Club' in 1902, to attract tourists." But the venture was far from a financial success.

Soon, a local movement sprouted with the goal of protecting Jewel Cave for time immemorial and on Feb. 7, 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt established Jewel Cave National Monument. Eventually, the Michaud brothers moved away and their family sold their claim to the government for about \$750, according to NPS records.

A half-century later, cavers Herb and Jan Conn began what would become a two-decade quest to explore the depths of Jewel Cave, inexorably linking their names with the history of the cave. While logging more than 6,000 hours in 708 trips beneath the ponderosa pines of the Black Hills, the Conns witnessed underground scenery few humans had ever encountered and revealed one of the most complex and extensive cave ecosystems in the world.

Less than 10 of the 411 National Park Service units in the U.S. and its trust territories offer cave tours, even though many NPS sites have cave resources. Jewel Cave is one

If you go

Jewel Cave National Monument is located 13 miles west of Custer and 24 miles east of Newcastle, Wyo. From Rapid City, follow U.S. Highway 16/385 south to Custer and drive west to the park.

Tour tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and tours offered change by season. Tour costs range from \$4 to \$31. For operating hours and tour schedules and specific costs, visit the monument's website at nps.gov/jeca or call 605-673-8300. Tour costs range from \$4 to \$31.

such site and, while the length of its passages is certainly impressive, the majority of visitors are attracted not by its size, but by the incredible, rare crystalline formations found there.

More adventurous "cavers" willing to take part in tours guided by park rangers will be rewarded with the sight of tiny crystal Christmas trees — hydromagnesite balloons that would pop with the touch of a finger — and extremely delicate calcite deposits known as "cave popcorn." Free ranger-led excursions include a simple half-hour exploratory walk to a longer lantern-light tour to a intensive four-hour Wild Cave adventure.

In a typical year, about 80,000 visitors explore the 49-degree Jewel Cave, the perfect outing in any weather. In summer, the cave offers a cool respite from the heat, while in winter, a journey into Jewel Cave can take visitors far from surface snows and sub-zero windchill.



A PARK FOR ALL SEASONS

Custer State Park is a 71,000 acre recreational paradise year round. As summer blends into fall our three scenic drives burst with autumn color and you'll find a more relaxed atmosphere at the Park's four historic lodges and 8 campgrounds. The Park is a winter wonderland and guests will find peace and serenity throughout that only winter can bring. Peaceful hikes, beautiful vistas, and an abundance of wildlife will help fill your day. Lodging and camping are available year round but limited in the winter season, be sure to call ahead for specific offerings. Come let your spirits soar in Custer State Park where the adventure begins but the memories never end.



New Visitor Center
Open Year Round & Featuring
A 20 Minute Movie
Narrated by Kevin Costner

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016

29-10/1 23rd Annual Buffalo Roundup Arts Festival
30 51st Annual Buffalo Roundup

OCTOBER 2016

1 27th Annual Buffalo Wallow Chili Cook-off
28 - 29 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. Halloween Night Hike

JANUARY 2017

1 First Day Hike



www.CusterStatePark.com

LODGING

888-875-0001 | www.CusterResorts.com

CAMPING

800-710-2267 | www.CampSD.com

A South Dakota State Park Entrance License is required.
Photos Courtesy South Dakota Tourism



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The new Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center features three pillars at the entry to the building to represent the air, sea, and land elements of the nuclear triad.

The ruins at Fort Randall, including this chapel shown here in 1902, are part of the expansive Missouri National Recreational River area in far southeastern South Dakota.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



NPS hidden gems in South Dakota

Here are some lesser-known but still worthy National Park Service sites in South Dakota.

Minuteman Missile National Historic Landmark

West of the Black Hills, straddling Interstate 90, stands one of the National

Park Service's newest gems — the Minuteman Missile National Historic Landmark.

As former Supreme Allied Commander and later President Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "We are going to have peace even if we have to fight for it."

At the Visitor Center (exit 131 on I-90), discover the Cold War events that shaped our lives and still remain relevant. Remember duck-and-cover drills, fallout shelters, Nixon's trip to China, the Bobby



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Missouri River cuts through southern South Dakota, providing scenic vistas along its path.

Fischer vs. Boris Spassky chess match, or the fall of the Berlin Wall? Gain the Soviet perspective regarding mutual assured destruction.

At the Delta 01 Launch Control Facility, visit the once-secret area where Air Force personnel controlled and secured our nuclear arsenal.

Observe first-hand the underground bunker from which the emergency war order would be executed in the event of nuclear war. Tickets are required for tours; tours limited to six visitors per tour.

At the Delta 09 missile silo (Exit 116 on I-90), stare armageddon in the face through a viewing enclosure that allows visitors to gaze directly down on a 1.2 megaton nuclear weapon. A self-guided tour by cell phone relates the hidden tale of the Cold War fought on the Great Plains.

Missouri National Recreational River

This preserved area runs along a 100-mile stretch of North America's longest

river, the Missouri, and provides a gateway to the untamed American West. The Missouri National Recreational River exists in two sections of riverbank and roadways from Lake Andes, S.D., south to the Iowa border.

The route, either by road or river, features numerous stop-off spots along the "Big Muddy" where wide vistas of the Great Plains are easily visible.

The recreation area is headquartered at the Lewis & Clark Visitors Center at the Gavins Point Dam near Yankton, but many other stopping points and historical monuments can be found on either side of the river. The area is split into two sections, one 39 miles long and the other about 60 miles long.

One spot worth checking out is Spirit Mound, a slight uprising of prairie grasses and flowers that was the spot where Lewis & Clark took in their first panoramic view of the Great Plains, but also where Native American tribes sought guidance from the spirit world.


The area is open year round and there is no fee.

For more information, go online to nps.gov/mnrr.

Art of the Lakota & More

Discover Plains Indian arts, crafts, jewelry, beads and unique craft supplies. Plus, glassware, clothing, pottery, toys, and an incredible selection of Native American and Pioneer books, CDs and videos - all housed in Prairie Edge's historic building.



 Like Us
On Facebook

PRAIRIE EDGE

606 Main Street, in Historic Downtown Rapid City • 605-342-3086 • prairieedge.com

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK



Clouds form a scintillating scene above a ridge line in the badlands of the North Unit in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

LAURA THOMAS, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A president's spiritual home

LAUREN DONOVAN
Bismarck Tribune

Theodore Roosevelt National Park honors its namesake president, not because of his legacy for creating and conserving some of America's most beautiful public places, but because he actually lived there.

That alone makes this national park at the western gateway to North Dakota unique among all 59 of the country's national parks, though monuments and other designations honor other past presidents in many locations.

When park visitors look out at the carved and colorful buttes, the tough contorted cottonwood trees and the Little Missouri River winding through, they are looking at land where Roosevelt rode horseback, hunted, ranched and cowboied in rough and ready years when Dakota was still a territory.

He was a man broken by grief when he arrived in 1883 and a tougher, more resilient one when he left three years later. By his own admission, his years in the Badlands first as a visitor, and then as an invested cattleman, were the making of him as a man, and the seed for his eventual years as one of the most successful and memorable presidents in American history.

Today, the National Park Service maintains a light hand on the 70,000 acres that make up this park, where buffalo, wild horses, elk, bighorn sheep and other wildlife outnumber visitors almost any day of the week.

The park is not a contiguous piece, so visitors should give some thought to how much time they have for adventure and the highlights they want take in while there.

South Unit

The South Unit is the central piece of the park; it's the largest of three distinct park units and it's accessible from the fun, touristy town of Medora on Interstate 94, with shopping, bars, restaurants, kiddie attractions, hotels, a nightly musical and historical dramatizations.

It's the part of the park most visitors will experience, making the drive through on the 35-mile paved loop road, with time for



KIMBERLY WYNN, BISMARCK TRIBUNE

Buffalo graze at a relaxed pace on a scenic ridge in Theodore Roosevelt National Park in western North Dakota.

stops at scenic overlooks, prairie dog towns, canyon hikes and butte-top moments. There are trails for hiking and horseback and places to simply sit and contemplate the beauty of the deep valleys, the sheer artistry of erosion in these baked-clay soils and the wildlife browsing in this safe sanctuary.

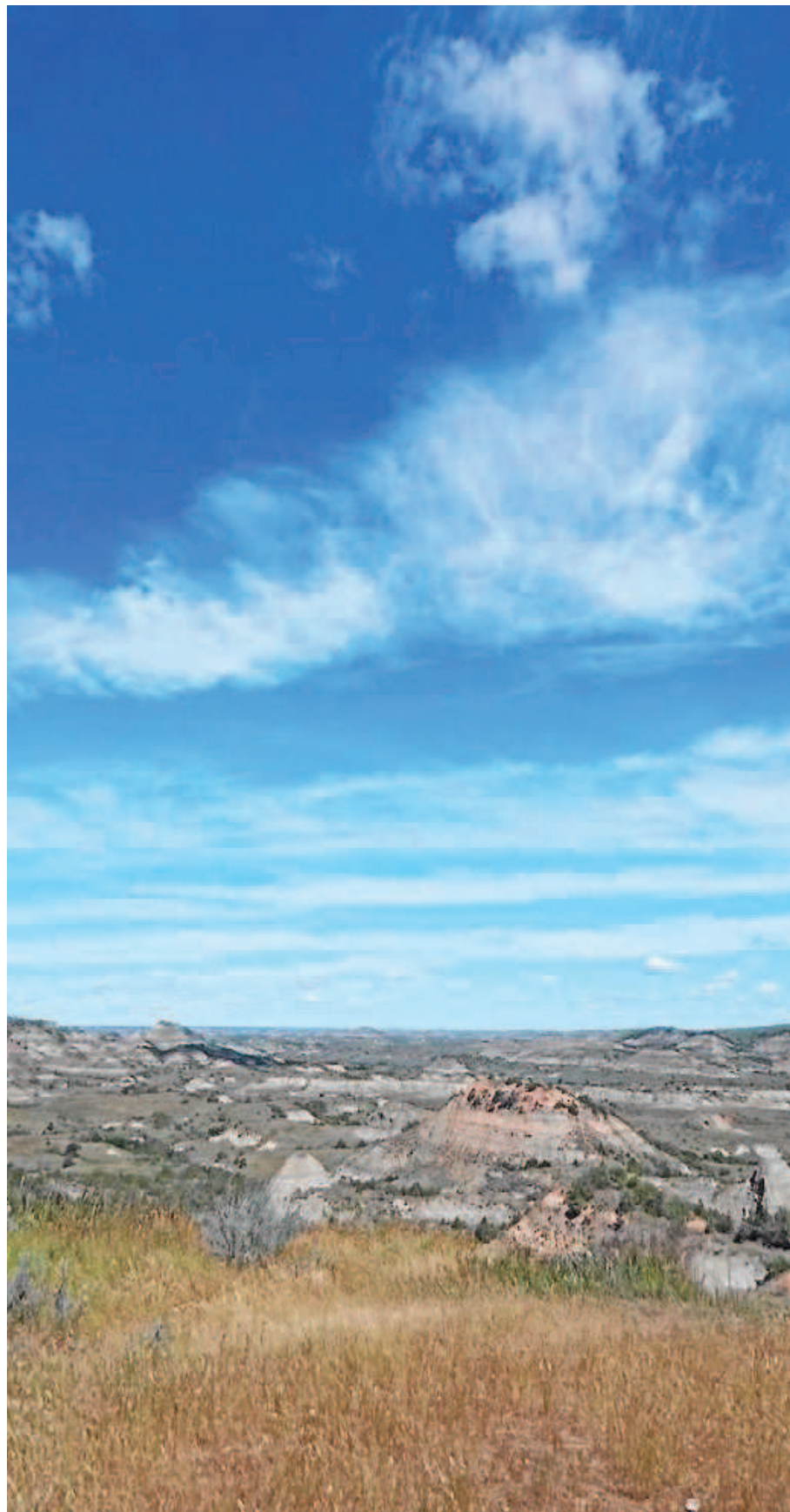
The park visitor center is a must-stop for orientation and basic information.

Elkhorn Ranch Unit

One would rightly imagine that Roosevelt would have chosen to live in a cabin and develop his Elkhorn cattle ranch as far off the beaten path as he could get, if there even was such a thing as a beaten path in the Badlands in the years 1884-1886 when he was ranching there. He maintained an interest in the ranch until it was sold in 1898.

The site of his 1,800-square-foot log cabin along the banks of the Little Missouri River is some 35 miles from Medora as the

Please see **Roosevelt**, Page A50



KIMBERLY WYNN, BISMARCK TRIBUNE

The land is rugged but open, and the skies are wide, in many areas within Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The scenic Little Missouri River winds its way inside the Theodore Roosevelt National Park located in the badlands of North Dakota. The park of more than 70,000 acres sits in three sections in western North Dakota.

Reflections on a park

What's been said about Theodore Roosevelt National Park



"Most historic homes of great people aren't set in that kind of scenic majesty. This is where Theodore Roosevelt restored and then found himself, in that splendid isolation of the Badlands of the Little Missouri. People can go see the actual place where he lived. I love that park."

— **Dayton Duncan, writer and co-producer of PBS series "The National Parks: America's Best Idea," also "The Dust Bowl," and "Lewis and Clark: An Illustrated History"**

"I hike at least four times a month. The trails are so long and so beautiful and there's so much to look at. I can ride my bike out to the park. It's a privilege. The park allows you to see magnificence that you wouldn't get to see if you live in the city."

— **Michael Whitworth, 13, seventh-grader at Medora Public School**

"My family has been going to the park and Medora for years, making it a special tradition we are now sharing with our grandchildren. We will continue that tradition this summer when we again enjoy the park's pristine beauty and exciting adventures. The

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a treasure for North Dakota, as well as the nation."

— **North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple**

"I can go horseback for miles and miles without gates and fences. It's nice to have something preserved in the state that it's in. I feel peaceful and close to nature. I think a lot about Theodore Roosevelt; I have so much respect for him and I wish there were more leaders like that today."

— **Sandy Baertsch, rural Medora resident and businesswoman**

"My home ranch-house stands on the river brink. From the low, long veranda, shaded by leafy cotton-woods, one looks across sand bars and shallows to a strip of meadow land, behind which rises a line of sheer cliffs and grassy plateaus. This veranda is a pleasant place in the summer evenings when a cool breeze stirs along the river and blows in the faces of the tired men, who loll back in their rocking-chairs (what true American does not enjoy a rocking-chair?), book in hand — though they do not often read the books, but rock gently to and fro, gazing sleepily out at the weird-looking buttes opposite, until their sharp outlines grow indistinct and purple in the after-glow of the sunset."

— **From "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman," by Theodore Roosevelt**

Roosevelt

From A49

crow flies, and a solid 45 miles of mainly gravel road for visitors. Directions and a map are must-haves for this excursion, available at the park visitor center.

This small area is separate from the park, though still part of it, and visitors who make the effort will get a true sense of the genuine isolation and beauty with which Roosevelt surrounded himself in those years when he worked cattle and befriended neighboring cowboys and cattlemen. All that remains of the cabin and other outbuildings are the large flat foundation stones that supported the cabin and the setting itself. Modern interpretive signs tell the rest of the story of this man who so loved the wilderness he doubled parks while he was president, created the first National Wildlife Refuge and authorized the Antiquities Act evoked many times to save public land treasures.

North Unit

The North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is a smaller, but more rugged version of the South Unit without the distraction — or attraction, depending on

If you go



Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota has its South Unit located at Interstate 94, Exit 32, with gateway entrance is in historic Medora community.

To get to the North Unit, take I-94 Exit 42 onto north Highway 85, go 45 miles to North Unit entrance. To get to the Elkhorn Ranch Unit, take I-94 Exit 10, and follow gravel roads about 30 miles to parking lot and walk about 1 mile to location of Theodore Roosevelt's 1884-era cattle ranch cabin. (Road is poorly marked and a map is a must-have, available at the park visitor center.)

Park is open year-round, though not all park roads are open in the winter months.

Check in at park visitor center for daily and annual passes, and any camping fees. Website is nps.gov/thro.

one's perspective — of the Medora experience. It is about a 90-minute drive from the South Unit and it offers park camping, a scenic drive, hiking trails, and scenic stopping points. A visitor center provides important information for experiencing the North Unit and for any daily interpretive events that are on the schedule.



North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, Bismarck

Chateau de Mores
State Historic Site, MedoraFort Buford and Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence
Interpretive Center, near Williston

Where will your journey begin?

Plan a day or a weekend trip to North Dakota state historic sites.

**Discover more at
history.nd.gov
or call 701.328.2666**



NPS hidden gems in North Dakota

Here is a look at a few lesser known but still beloved National Park Service sites and other attractions in North Dakota:

Knife River Indian Villages

Located near the center of North Dakota, south of Minot, lies the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, where visitors can take a trip back in time and experience how Native Americans lived on the plains centuries ago.

Patrons are urged to imagine a busy earthlodge village, where earthen huts served as the homes for a bustling riverfront culture. According to the NPS website, the site conjures images of “women sitting on platforms singing to their gardens, girls playing with homemade leather dolls, boys practicing with their first bow and arrow, old men smoking tobacco and laughing at each other’s stories.”

Trading became a staple for residents of this area, which attracted Indians, migrating Americans and foreigners from around the world to the region.

In 1974, the United States Congress established Knife River Indian Villages National Historic site to preserve and interpret an area rich with history and culture.

The Knife River meanders along through Mercer County, N.D., arriving at the confluence of the Missouri River near Stanton. Park land borders both sides of the rivers creating a forested peninsula throughout part of the park. The rest of the park’s 1,759 acres are within a few hundred yards of these water sources.

In 1974, the site was established to preserve certain historic and archeological remnants of the culture and agricultural lifestyles of the Plains Indians. The area is comprised of native short grass prairie, exotic grasslands, 450 acres of hardwood forest, cultural village sites and even some sandbars and wetland areas.

Enchanted Highway

This is a 30-mile adventure down a paved county highway that features whimsical folk art on a gigantic scale.

The Enchanted Highway departs Interstate 94 at Exit 74, about 40 miles east of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and where the sculpture “Geese in Flight,” serves as a billboard for the big show down

the highway.

Travelers will encounter the Tin Family, Covey of Pheasants, World’s Largest Grasshopper, Deer Crossing, Fisherman’s Dream and Theodore Roosevelt, done by artist Gary Greff. Each has a small parking area and visitors are welcome to pull in, stretch their legs and walk around these handmade artistic treasures. The drive through rolling farm land accented by beautiful buttes is itself a pastoral gem.

Garrison Dam

This engineering marvel was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the years 1947-1953 and is today the fifth-largest earthen dam structure in the world. It is located on Highway 200 between Pick City and Riverdale, towns that sprang up during the years of construction.

Visitors can drive across the 2-mile dam, or proceed below the dam to enjoy a day-use picnic area with access to the shores of the mighty Missouri River or take a tour of the dam’s hydro-electric facilities. Besides camping and day-use, the downstream area also includes the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, the world’s largest walleye and northern pike production facility and restoration of the endangered pallid sturgeon. Hatchery tours are also available.

Behind the dam, the river is backed into the Lake Sakakawea reservoir, named for the Shoshone woman who accompanied Lewis and Clark’s expedition in 1804-1806. It is the third-largest manmade lake in the country, after Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

Fort Ransom State Park

North Dakota’s lush and rolling topography will surprise visitors who think of it as a flat rectangle of prairie. Perhaps few places do a better job of dispelling that perception than Fort Ransom State Park, located south of I-94 at Exit 292.

The drive to the park is down a Scenic Highway, but the surprise is how the area formed by valleys of the Sheyenne River resembles the New England region, especially in the fall when the sumac blazes on the hillsides.

The park has day use and overnight camping, along with a series of scenic hiking and walking trails. The park preserves an original homestead, which is serving as the visitor center until a uniquely architected new center is up and running.



Garrison Dam

COURTESY PHOTO



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

A man's beaded vest is one of many artifacts on display at the Knife River Indian Villages site.



Driving distance to national parks from select cities (in miles)

Parks	Billings	Bismarck	Butte	Casper	Helena	Missoula	Rapid City
Badlands	375	291	601	254	614	719	56
Devils Tower	265	343	492	187	504	608	107
Glacier	375	700	245	650	203	137	691
Grand Teton	233	645	223	249	252	340	511
Jewel Cave	332	352	559	188	571	676	53
Mount Rushmore	340	322	566	231	578	683	23
Theodore Roosevelt	281	134	507	419	480	624	239
Wind Cave	361	349	588	205	600	705	54
Yellowstone	203	352	148	266	175	718	432

Facts & figures about the NPS

Here is a look at some basic data about the National Park Service.

Preservation

National parks contain:

- At least 247 species of threatened or endangered plants and animals.
- More than 75,000 archeological sites.
- Nearly 27,000 historic and prehistoric structures.
- More than 167 million museum items, including George Washington's inaugural coat and Carl Sandburg's typewriter.
- 18,000 miles of trails.
- The world's largest carnivore, the Alaskan brown bear.
- The world's largest living things, Giant Sequoia trees.
- The highest point in North America, Mt. McKinley (20,320 feet), in Denali National Park.
- The longest cave system known to the world, Mammoth Cave National Park, with more than 400 mapped miles of caves.
- America's deepest lake, Crater Lake in Crater Lake National Park, at 1,943 feet.
- The lowest point in the Western Hemisphere, Badwater Basin in Death Valley National Park, at 282 feet below sea level.

Fees

In all, 128 NPS sites charge entrance fees, which range from \$5 to \$25. The money remains with the NPS and is used to enhance visitor services and facilities.

The America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass is an \$80 annual pass

that provides access to federal lands managed by five different government agencies, including the NPS.

Children under 16 are admitted to parks without charge. A \$10, life-time Senior Pass is available for U.S. citizens 62 years and older. A free, lifetime Access Pass is offered for citizens with permanent disabilities.

Visitor Services

The NPS maintains 879 visitor centers and contact stations which were visited by more than 307 million people in 2015. More than 500,000 attended special events and ranger

programs. More than 660,000 children participated in the "Junior Ranger" program.

Staffing

The NPS employs more than 20,000 permanent, temporary, and seasonal workers.

They are assisted by 246,000 Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs), who donate about 6.7 million hours annually. This is the equivalent of having about more than 3,200 additional employees.

Leadership

Director: Jonathan B. Jarvis; deputy directors: Peggy O'Dell and Denise Ryan

Administration

The National Park Service is a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The NPS manages the 410 parks of the National Park System. The NPS also helps administer dozens of affiliated sites, the National Register of Historic Places, National Heritage Areas, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Landmarks, and National Trails.

Partnerships

Public support for America's national parks is a tradition as old as the parks themselves. Even before the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916, citizens stepped forward to protect special places that exemplify our national heritage.

Thousands of public private partnerships play a crucial role in advancing the NPS mission. More than 150 non-profit park friends groups contribute time, expertise, and about \$50 million annually to national parks across the country.

The National Park Foundation, the national nonprofit partner to the NPS, raises private funds to help protect national parks. The Foundation has provided nearly \$120 million in support to park projects and programs over the past seven years.

More than 70 cooperating associations enhance educational and interpretive experiences at parks by offering programs and selling park-related retail items in their shops. The associations provide about \$75 million to the NPS in annual contributions and volunteer support.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Most National Park Service sites are open all year long, as evidenced by this sunrise image near Wind Cave National Park near Hot Springs, S.D.



FIRST GOLD HOTEL & GAMING

It's Where Deadwood Begins



11 Casino's filled with all your favorite Slots

Live Blackjack & Roulette Games

190 Deluxe Hotel Rooms & 5 Luxury Suites

3 Buffets Served Everyday Featuring

USDA Choice Prime Rib Nightly

FREE On-Site Covered Parking



1-800-274-1876

www.firstgold.com

MORE WAYS TO WIN

Celebrating 100 Years Together...



Casper Refinery
and the National Park Service



Explore.
Memories.
Go.

We are the Largest Family Owned RV Dealer in the Wyoming!



Hundreds of RVs in Stock!



(307) 237-5000 | 5000 E. Yellowstone Highway, Evansville, WY 82636 | www.sonnysrvs.com

Nearly 7,000 species thrive in national parks

BioBlitz count program featured ancient bison tooth found at North Dakota site

National Park Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. —During two intensive days of exploration and documentation, the National Parks BioBlitz, held in mid-May, captured a vivid snapshot of the unique plant and animal biodiversity in America's national parks.

The National Park Service and National Geographic event involved more than 120 national parks and tens of thousands of experts and citizen scientists of all ages and backgrounds.

The BioBlitz was part scientific endeavor, part outdoor classroom excursion and part celebration of national natural heritage. Families, scientists, school groups, and individuals swarmed parks, observing and recording as many plant and animal species as possible within a 24-hour period.

"I am thrilled that so many people became citizen scientists this weekend," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B.

Jarvis. "Everyone had a great time finding plants, amphibians, bugs, animals, birds, and even fossils in parks throughout the country. Their discoveries make a difference and will be used to establish baselines against which we can measure changes in ecosystems."

Highlights included:

- An initial scientific species count, of 6,986, with more than 60,000 observations recorded during the two-day event and lead-up events in recent months. Organizers expect this number to increase greatly over the next few months as more species are identified and the final numbers tallied.

- The National Parks BioBlitz—Washington, D.C. was the cornerstone of the national event. Nearly 300 scientists and experts led more than 2,600 students and thousands of members of the general public in 13 of the National Capital Region's parks. As of the end of the weekend, more than 1,000 species were recorded.

- Knife River Indian Villages National Historical Park in North Dakota conducted an ArcheoBlitz. A centuries-old bison tooth was found at Big Hidatsa Village, which was occupied from about 1740 to



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTOS

Bobcats may look a little like some house cats, but these intrepid hunters know how to survive, and do so in many national park sites.



The goofy yellow-bellied marmot, seen here lounging on a warm rock in Grand Teton National Park, is a regular resident of NPS sites.



Bull snakes are common in many national parks and sites in the West, including at Badlands National Park in South Dakota.



A centuries-old bison tooth was found at the Hidatsa Village site within the Knife River Indian Villages site in North Dakota during the recent study of species across the National Park Service. This photo shows the travois trails in the upper left that lead away from the Hidatsa Village.

1850. DNA extracted from this tooth can provide data on bison populations before their near-extinction at the end of the 19th century, a useful comparison for managers of modern herds.

- Channel Islands National Park featured a live broadcast of an interactive dive with renowned oceanographer and National Geographic Explorer Dr. Sylvia Earle. The feed was featured online and enabled the public to follow the exploration of one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world, the giant kelp forest.

- At Cabrillo National Monument, Green Abalone (*Haliotis fulgens*) was documented. For the past thirty years, Abalone have faced substantial conservation concerns due to overharvesting and disease. Their presence in the Cabrillo Rocky Intertidal Zone can be described as ephemeral at best.

- At Gettysburg National Military Park, more than 750 school students identified 166 species, including a 30-pound snapping turtle, in the park's first ever BioBlitz.

- At Great Smoky Mountain National Parks, experts teamed up with about 100 fifth graders. Together they explored plants and insects and discovered nearly 200 species.

- At Weir Farm National Historic Site, 375 school children joined more than 200 other participants, and counted more than 340 species.

- Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve conducted a lichen survey and added several new species to their park list. One of those identified was *Xanthoria elegans*. This species of lichen resided on the international space station for eighteen months.

- At Bandelier National Monument, more than 100 researchers and volunteers conducted 17 inventories that included searches for terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates, birds, reptiles and amphibians, plants, pollinators and bats. They made 877 iNaturalist observations and identified 361 species. The most observed species was the Silver-haired bat.

This National Parks BioBlitz was the 10th in a series of BioBlitzes hosted by the National Park Service and the National Geographic Society.

Since 2007, as part of the run-up to the NPS Centennial, the two organizations have collaborated to host annual BioBlitzes in different national parks close to major urban areas.

“Nine years ago at the first National Geographic–National Park Service BioBlitz in Rock Creek Park, we had about 1,000 people documenting species on paper,” said National Geographic Society President and CEO Gary Knell. “This year, for the National Park Service Centennial,



COURTESY NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Tens of thousands of experts and citizen scientists of all ages came to identify species in national parks, including at Weir Farm National Historic Site in Connecticut.

tens of thousands of people have joined forces at more than 120 parks for the first nationwide BioBlitz. This massive effort to uncover the amazing natural resources in our parks dovetails with National Geographic's longtime commitment to exploring and protecting our planet.”

The National Parks BioBlitz used the iNaturalist app to deliver real-time information on species finds. During BioBlitz, iNaturalist's weekly record was beat by more than 10,000 observations with a grand weekly total of over 64,800 observations in one week. Parks and partners shared their BioBlitz activities via social media, using the hashtags #BioBlitz2016 and #FindYourPark.

Many parks broadcast portions of their events on social media sites such as Periscope, Snapchat, and Facebook Live, engaging visitors from around the world.

Additional parks will conduct BioBlitz events throughout the National Park Service Centennial. More information, including an interactive location map, is available at natgeo.org/bioblitz.



Though rarely seen or heard, mountain lions are frequent residents of national park service sites.

National parks spin off big money

2015 report estimates
NPS creates \$32B boost
to US economy

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Spending by a record number of national park visitors in 2015 provided a \$32 billion benefit to the nation's economy and supported 295,000 jobs, according to a report released in April by National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

“The big picture of national parks and their importance to the economy is clear,” Jarvis said of the \$16.9 billion visitors spent in communities within 60 miles of a national park. “Each tax dollar invested in the National Park Service effectively returns \$10 to the U.S. economy because of visitor spending that works through local, state and the U.S. economy.

“This is especially significant news to the gateway communities where national parks can be the community's primary economic engine,” Jarvis said. “While we care for the parks and interpret the stories of these iconic natural, cultural and historic landscapes, our neighbors in nearby communities provide our visitors with important services like food and lodging and that means hundreds of thousands of local jobs.”

The four upper Great Plains states of Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and North Dakota saw an estimated economic impact of nearly \$1.7 billion in 2015, according to the report. Wyoming saw the most tourism spending related to NPS sites, with nearly \$900 million in economic impact.

The report comes on the heels of a major policy speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell earlier this week. The Secretary called for greater investments in national parks and public lands to prepare for the next century of conservation. The address, delivered during National Park Week, also called for a course correction in conserving America's public lands; made an argument to make our national parks more relevant to an increasingly diverse and urbanized country; and called for implementing smarter, landscape-level planning to support healthy ecosystems and sustainable development on public lands.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTOS

ABOVE: Campers often fuel up on supplies at nearby outfitters and grocery stores before heading into National Park Service sites to relax, as these campers are doing at the Slough Creek Campground in Yellowstone National Park. **BELOW:** Visitors spend money on gas, food and lodging in order to visit national parks to catch glimpses of nature such as this cow moose and her calf making their way through a stream in Glacier National Park in Montana.

Visitor spending in 2015 supported 295,000 jobs, provided \$11.1 billion in labor income, \$18.4 billion in value added, and \$32.0 billion in economic output to the U.S. economy. The lodging sector provided the highest direct contributions with \$5.2 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 52,000 jobs. The restaurants and bars sector provided the next greatest direct contributions with \$3.4 billion in economic output to local gateway economies and 65,000 jobs.

According to the 2015 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31.1 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.2 percent), gas and oil (11.8 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.8 percent).

The annual peer-reviewed economics report, 2015 National Park Visitor Spending Effects, was prepared by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of





RAPID CITY JOURNAL FILE

Visitors view Mount Rushmore from the terrace at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The national memorial is estimated to add about \$200 million a year to the local economies surrounding the South Dakota site.

the National Park Service. It includes information by park and by state on visitor spending, the number of jobs supported by visitor spending and other statistics.

Report authors this year also produced an interactive tool to present data in full color circle and bar graphs.

Users can explore visitor spending, jobs, labor income, value added, and output effects by sector for national, state, and local economies. Users can also view year-by-year trend data. The interactive tool and report are available at the NPS Social Science Program webpage: go.nps.gov/vse.

Parks bring in big money

National Park Service sites generated an estimated \$1.7 billion economic impact in the four-state upper Great Plains region that includes Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas in 2015. Here is a breakdown by state:

Montana

8 NPS sites, 5 million visitors, \$478 million in tourism spending

North Dakota

3 NPS sites, 605,000 visitors, \$38 million in tourism spending

South Dakota

6 NPS sites, 4.4 million visitors, \$282 million in tourism spending

Wyoming

7 NPS sites, 7.2 million visitors, \$890 million in tourism spending

National Park visitation is expected to grow again in 2016, the centennial year for the NPS. There are now 411 parks in the national park system, the latest is the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington D.C., estab-

lished by President Obama on April 12.

President Obama established a Centennial Initiative for the NPS anniversary and Congress is considering a centennial act to support a multi-year effort to invest wisely in the park system's most important assets, use parks to enhance informal learning, engage volunteers, provide training opportunities for youth, and enhance the NPS's ability to leverage partnerships to accomplish its mission.

For more state-by-state information about national parks and how the National Park Service is working with communities, go to [nps.gov/\[statename\]](http://nps.gov/[statename])



JACQUELYN MARTIN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama speaks by the Sentinel Bridge, in the Yosemite Valley, in front of the Yosemite Falls which is the highest waterfall in the Park at Yosemite National Park, Calif., on Saturday, June 18, 2016. The Obama family traveled to Yosemite to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the creation of America's national park system. Obama has submitted a proposed 2017 budget for the NPS of \$3.1 billion.

Our nation continues to invest in its park system

Obama budget for NPS is \$3.1 billion in 2017

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama's budget request for fiscal year 2017 for the National Park Service supports critical conservation, preserva-

tion, and recreation programs to share our country's most iconic, natural, cultural, and historical landscapes with the next generation of visitors.

Obama, who with his family has visited several national parks so far in 2016 to celebrate the centennial of the NPS, proposed a budget request of \$3.1 billion to boost the National Park Service's essential programs and operational needs by \$250.2 million

above the 2016 enacted levels.

"This is a smart, innovative and forward-looking budget that invests in Interior's key missions, now and in the future, so we can continue to serve the American people," said Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. "The president's budget provides targeted investments to create economic opportunities by growing our domestic energy portfolio, building climate resilient communi-

ties, and revitalizing America's national parks as we mark their 100th anniversary."

Recently released visitation statistics show that America's national parks are more popular than ever. More than 305 million people visited the 409 parks in the National Park System in 2015, eclipsing the all-time visitation record the NPS saw in the previous year.

"We are actively reaching out to a new

generation of visitors and inviting them to explore the depth and breadth of the National Park System,” National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis said. “The President’s budget will enable the National Park Service to continue to provide these visitors with a fantastic experience, while ensuring that these priceless resources are protected and preserved into the next century.”

“Our national parks not only represent our country’s most iconic, natural, cultural, and historical landscapes; they also serve as economic engines for nearby areas,” Jarvis said. “Every tax dollar invested in the NPS returns more than \$10 to the U.S. economy, thanks to visitor spending in gateway communities.”

The FY 2017 budget builds on FY 2016 Centennial Initiative funding to address deferred maintenance of the NPS’ highest priority assets. The budget includes discretionary increases of \$150.5 million in operations and construction, which will help the NPS to restore and maintain all 7,186 highest priority non-transportation assets, such as visitor centers, trails and campgrounds, in good condition over the next 10 years.

Additional increases for NPS operations would support the Every Kid in a Park initiative, a program announced by President Obama last year that provides fourth graders and their families’ free entry to more than 2,000 federally-managed lands and waters nationwide for an entire year. The initiative is part of a broader effort to connect young people to our nation’s unique outdoor spaces. Proposed funding for the initiative includes \$11.5 million to transport more than one million students from Title 1 elementary schools in urban areas to nearby national parks and \$8.5 million to support youth engagement coordinators at parks.

The proposed budget includes an increase of \$20 million for Centennial Challenge projects and partnerships, a matching program that leverages federal funds with partner donations for signature projects and programs at national parks. In FY 2016, the NPS leveraged \$15 million in federal funding from this program with nearly \$33 million from more than 90 park partners, for a total benefit of almost \$48 million.

The budget requests increases of \$17 million for competitive historic preservation grants and \$3 million for grants-in-aid to historically black colleges and universities to document, interpret, and preserve the stories and sites associated with the progress of civil rights in America. This funding builds on the \$8 million provided for these activities in FY 2016.

The budget also includes several new mandatory proposals, including those tied to the National Park Service Centennial



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTOS

Continued federal funding of the National Park Service should help preserve facilities and land, including the Canyons Trail where it enters Hell Canyon not far from the visitor center at Jewel Cave National Monument in South Dakota.

Act, introduced last September, as well as the Department of the Interior proposal to permanently authorize annual funding for LWCF programs. The budget requests \$178.2 million in discretionary funding and \$141.2 million in mandatory funding for NPS programs within the Fund.

“We look forward to continuing to work with Congress as it considers additional legislation in support of the National Park Service Centennial, which would further improve the national parks by encouraging philanthropy and volunteerism, improve visitor services, and connect with a new generation of national park visitors,” Jarvis said.

Other increases in the President’s Budget for the National Park Service support operations at new park units, as well as investments in critical natural and cultural resource management

- \$10.7 million to support newly created parks, including Pullman National Monument, Honouliuli National Monument, and Manhattan Project National Historical Park, as well as the law enforcement and visitor service needs associated with the 2017 presidential inauguration.

- \$2 million to support the conservation and stabilization of vanishing treasures

and preservation of technical conservation skills; \$2 million to increase grant funding for Tribal Historic Preservation Officers; \$0.9 million to modernize and digitize the National Register of Historic Places; and \$0.8 million to reinvigorate the Preservation Technology and Training grants program

- \$3 million for climate change adaptation projects at parks, \$1.2 million to provide a science-based response to energy development adjacent to parks, \$1.0 million for multi-agency studies to determine the potential impact of uranium mining near Grand Canyon National Park, and \$1.1 million to support expanded research and monitoring of climate change and its impacts in the Arctic.

The President’s FY17 budget request of \$13.4 billion for the Department of the Interior reflects his commitment to meeting Federal trust responsibilities to Native Americans, conserve vital national landscapes across the Nation, support the next century of the National Park Service, and allow for responsible management of energy development on public lands and offshore areas. The Budget in Brief is online: www.doi.gov/budget and www.doi.gov/budget/2017/Hilites/toc.html.



This photo shows the circle of sacred smoke sculpture that honors the American people as a gesture of world peace by sculptor Junkyu Muto. The sculpture is designed to help raise visitor awareness of the importance of the tower to over twenty affiliated tribes at Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming.



MONTANA STATE PARKS



LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS STATE PARK

*Experience Montana
Interior!*

VISITOR CENTER

Summer Hours:

8:30 am - 5:00 pm daily
Open until 7 pm in
mid-summer

Caverns Tours every
half hour.

6/15 - 8/19

9 am - 6:30 pm

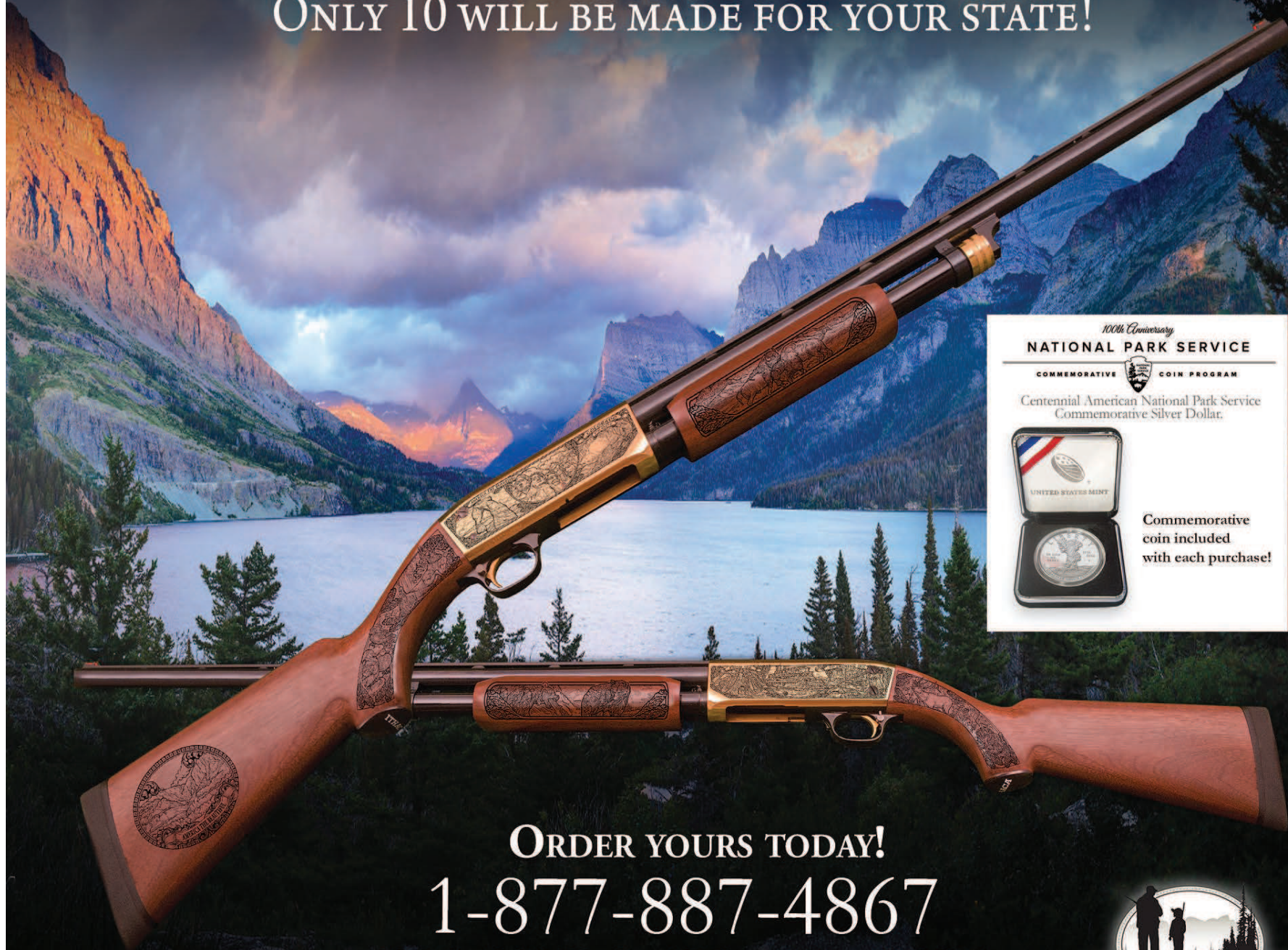
8/20 - 9/30

9 am - 4:30 pm

Wild Cave Tours:
Sunday and Tuesday
Evenings
Contact the park
for details.

AMERICAN LEGACY FIREARMS PRESENTS
★ THE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL SHOTGUN ★

ONLY 10 WILL BE MADE FOR YOUR STATE!



100th Anniversary
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
COMMEMORATIVE COIN PROGRAM
Centennial American National Park Service
Commemorative Silver Dollar.



Commemorative
coin included
with each purchase!

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

1-877-887-4867

1001 Smithfield Dr. Ste. 201 Fort Collins, CO 80524

www.AmericanLegacyFirearms.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-7pm, Sat-Sun 8am-4pm MST

Ithaca Gun Company
Where's Your Gun Made?



CONTINUE YOUR LEGACY...

BOBWARD'S

SPORTS & OUTDOORS



Outfitting National Park adventures since (almost) day one!



BOBWARDS.COM



Missoula - Bozeman - Helena - Butte - Hamilton
Montana