

Kqeo 2q Psa's & Community Events 2021

Crews Have Been Working Steadily On The Lavaside Fire Near Hell's Half Acre West Of Firth.

U.S. Bureau Of Land Management Spokesman Chris Burger Tells Eastidahonews.Com The 1,192-Acre Blaze Is 60% Contained, As Of 8 P.M. Friday Night.

Full Containment Is Expected At 6 P.M. Saturday.

As Of 4:30 P.M. Saturday, Bingham County Sheriff Craig Rowland Says Other Agencies Involved In Battling The Flames Have Pulled Out. Blm Crews Will Remain There To Protect Structures And Extinguish Hot Spots.

[Related | Update: Lavaside Fire Destroys One House, A Trailer Home, And Damages Multiple Other Residences](#)

The Fire Has Predominately Burned Private Land Since It Started Wednesday Afternoon. No Injuries Or Deaths Have Been Reported And The Official Cause Is Still Under Investigation.

The Majority Of The Fire's Growth Happened Thursday As A Result Of High Winds, Which Fanned The Flames From 200 Acres To More Than 1,000 Acres By The Evening. An Evacuation Order For Homes In The Area Was Temporarily In Effect Thursday. It Has Since Been Lifted.

Rowland Said Friday One House In The Area Of 700 North In Bingham County Was Destroyed Along With An Abandoned Trailer Home. Another House Was Severely Damaged, And Several Others Have Minor Damage. The Damage Occurred Later In The Day Thursday, Officials Said.

Smoke Will Continue To Be Visible In The Area, According To A Recent Blm Social Media Update.

Colleen Marzluff Whistled To Her Ornithologist Husband, John, As He Was Looking For A Raven Nest In A String Of Trees On The Low Southern Flank Of Yellowstone's Bison Peak.

Since Colleen Had Taken On The “Sentinel” Role, John Knew That Something Furry And Large Was Probably Entering The Area.

“I Heard The Whistle, No Problem, And I Thought, ‘Oh, It’s A Bison Coming In,’” John Recalled Of That Late Spring Day In 2020. “It Was A Really Closed-In Area, And I Couldn’t See Anything.”

Wrong Species.

Colleen Had Spotted A Couple Of Wolves — Members Of The Junction Butte Pack — Just Over A Ridge To The South. One Of The Canines Bolted Upon Hearing Colleen’s Whistle, But The Other Animal, A Black Male That Would Become Known As Wolf 1273m, Was Clearly Curious And Interested In The Humans Treading On Its Turf.

“The Wolf Absolutely Followed My Tracks,” [John Tells Jackson Hole News & Guide](#). “He Was Just Coming Towards Us.”

The Raven Researchers Weren’t Scared. Instead, At First, They Were Thrilled About The Sighting.

“As A Wildlife Biologist, It Was Like, ‘Oh My!’” Colleen Said. “Cool.”

But Then Wolf 1273m Became A Bit Too Interested, Totally Unperturbed By Their Presence. He Followed The Covid Scientists, Trailing Them At About 20 Feet Away As They Retreated From The Area. They Waved Their Arms, Yelled At The Canine And Lobbed Rocks.

Still, The Wolf Appeared Unfazed. They Pulled Out Their Pepper Spray And Kept Moving Downhill Rapidly. Step By Step, Perhaps For A Half A Mile, The Wolf Closely Followed.

“It Went From The Ultimate Wildlife Day,” John Recalled, “To, ‘Uh Oh, We’ve Got An Issue To Deal With Now.’”

John Finally Thought, “Screw It,” This Wolf Needs To Learn A Lesson. He Removed The Safety From His Bear Spray And Pulsed The Capsicum Solution Three Times In Wolf 1273m’s Direction.

“He Did Not Drop Or Whine Or Roll Or Anything, But It Clearly Sent Him A Signal,” John Said. “It Must Have Got A Nose Full Of The Stuff.”

At A Greater Distance The Wolf Paralleled Them And Then Angled Off Toward Slough Creek, Ending The Encounter.

The Marzluffs' Brush Was With One Of Yellowstone's Most Habituated Wolves, At Least At The Time. Wolf 1273m Was Raised By The Junction Butte Pack At A 2019 Den Site Just A Few Hundred Yards Off The Slough Creek Trail. Fishermen, Photographers And Hikers Frequently Crossed Paths With The Pups That Year, And The Proximity And Interactions At An Impressionable Age Led To Animals That Became Perilously Unafraid Of Humans.

"They're Little Puppies, And You've Got To Stay Away From Them, Or They Grow Up To Be Bad," Yellowstone Senior Wildlife Biologist Doug Smith Said. "That's What Happened To 1273."

Two 7-Month-Old Wolves From That Litter Were Hit And Killed On Roads That Year.

Wolf 1273m Lived On, But With An Unnerving And Potentially Hazardous Comfort Around People.

Smith And His Staff Have Grappled With More Than The Junction Butte Pack When It Comes To Human-Conditioned Wolves In Recent Years. This Past Winter The Wapiti Pack Often Traveled The Groomed, Compacted Roads That Cut Into Yellowstone's Interior.

"They Were On The Road That Leads Into Old Faithful," Smith Said. "Snowmobilers Were Sitting There 10 Feet Away From Wolves.

"Everybody's Just Kind Of Enjoying Themselves, But This Could Lead To The Demise Of The Wapiti Pack," He Said. "Everyone Wants To See A Wolf And Get A Picture. We're Not Asking You To Blast By Them, But We Are Asking You To Get As Far Away On The Road As You Can And Slowly Drive By."

At One Point In The Winter Some Of The Wapiti Pack Members Split Off To The South, Heading Into Grand Teton National Park. They Continued Their Habit Of Using The Road — Except This Time A Plowed Route With Vehicle Traffic — And Were Nearly Hit By A Plow Truck, Smith Said.

The Yellowstone Wolf Project Staff Wanted To Avoid Killing The Wapiti Pack Animals, Which Is An Outcome They've Turned To Before When Trying To Do Away With Human-Conditioned, Potentially Dangerous Behavior.

"These Things Can Have Bad Endings," Smith Said. "We've Killed Two. If They Get Too Comfortable And Too Habituated, We'll Take Them Out."

One Wolf Killed Years Ago Met Its Demise After Chasing A Cyclist And Motorcycle. The Other Wolf Was Killed After Sticking Its Head Into Open Car Windows.

Offenses That Are Met With A Death Sentence Are Subjective, But Before Smith Had To Make Any Tough Calls About The Wapiti Pack He Turned To Yellowstone's Habituated Wolf Management Plan, Which Allows For Hazing. He Sought And Received Permission For Rangers To Ride Around On Snowmobiles Armed With Cased Shotguns That Could Propel Rubber Bullets, Bean Bags And Cracker Shells At The Wapiti Wolves. They Were Instructed To Fire On The Lobos Only During "Teachable Moments," When They'd Associate The Pain With Their Nearness To Humankind. On A Monday In Mid-February Such An Opportunity Presented Itself.

"One Of My Guys Hit Him With Paintballs," Smith Said.

Time Will Tell If The Aversive Conditioning Helps The Wapiti Pack Turn The Corner And Act More Like Wild Wolves.

"I'm Not Saying Everything's Hunky Dory," Smith Said, "But I Think If We'd Done Nothing We'd Have Had To Kill One Of Those Wolves By Now."

With Wolf 1273m The Hazing Operations Already Worked.

When Yellowstone's Borders Closed To Visitors For 55 Days At The Start Of The Covid-19 Pandemic, Smith's Staff Went Out "Armed To The Teeth" With The Intent To Reverse Wolf 1273m's Conditioning.

"To Put It Bluntly, We Pounded Him Last Spring When The Park Was Closed," Smith Said. "I Mean Pounded Him.

"Any Time He Was On The Road," He Said, "We Hit Him With Paintballs, Beanbags, Rubber Bullets, The Whole Nine Yards."

Ahead Of Bringing The Pain, The Big Black Male Wolf Had Shown He Had Lost All Apprehension Around People. In November 2019 The Curious Canine Once Even Ran Off With A Lamar Valley Photographer's Tripod.

"The Guy Ran After The Wolf, Because It Was An Expensive Tripod," Smith Said.

When The Wolf Dropped The Camera Platform, Its Owner Reclaimed It. But Wolf 1273m Wanted It Back. A Time Lapse Of Images Of The Encounter Provided By Bozeman, Montana, Photographer Allan Hathaway Shows That The Man Even Took A Swing At The Wolf To Create Some Separation.

The Marzluffs' Run-In With Wolf 1273m Was The Animal's Last Known Up-Close Interaction With People. Recently The Black Male Paired Up With A Female And Has Been Spending Most Of His Time Far From Any Road.

"Hazing Does Work," Smith Said. "1273 This Time Last Year Was Our Worst-Behaving Wolf. And Right Now He's A Naturally Behaving Wild Wolf."

That's A Happy Outcome From The Marzluffs' Perspective, Too.

"We Were Really Worried," John Said. "We Thought, 'Oh Man, We're Going To Report It And They're Going To Kill This Wolf.' So We're Really Glad That It's Turned Out Well."

A Highly-Anticipated Restaurant In Ammon Is Getting Ready To Open Its Doors Soon.

Duck Donuts Is Opening At 2675 Sunnyside Road Next To Super Chix Inside The New Hillcrest Plaza The First Weekend In May. A Grand Opening Celebration Will Begin At 8 A.M. On May 1.

"The First Guest In Line ... Will Receive A Free Duck Donuts Gift Basket And A Free Dozen Donuts Every Month For A Year. There Will Be A Drawing For A Second Customer To Win Monthly Donuts As Well As More Door Prizes And Merchandise Giveaways," Karen Murray, Vice President Of Powers Brand Communications Llc, A Marketing Firm For Duck Donuts, Says In A News Release.

There Will Also Be A Drawing For Someone Else To Win Free Donuts Every Month For A Year, As Well As Drawings For Other Prizes Throughout The Day. Those Prizes Include T-Shirts, Mugs, Coupons And Other Swag And Of Course, Lots Of Donuts.

Bonnie And Wyatt Wetsel Of Idaho Falls Are The Owners Of The Ammon Store. Bonnie Tells Eastidahonews.Com Construction Got Underway In December Three Months After It Was Announced In September. After A Year Of Preparation, She's Excited To Finally Open And Begin Serving Customers.

"We Think It Will Be A Great Addition To The Community. We're Really Excited To Be Here," Bonnie Says. "We've Had To Lock The Door Back Up While We're Finishing Setting The Store Up Because We've Had A Lot Of Interest, A Lot Of People Coming In (With The Opening Of Super Chix Next Door)."

Wyatt Says The Store's Proximity To Hillcrest High School And Other Retailers Made It An Attractive Spot For The State's Second Duck Donuts Location.

[Related | Restaurants And Salon Opening In Ammon Plaza Soon](#)

Duck Donuts Is A National Franchise Offering Warm, Made-To-Order Donuts With A Nearly Unlimited Amount Of Flavors And Combinations. The Duck Donut Is The Signature Offering, Which Is A Vanilla Cake Donut Coated, Topped And Drizzled To The Customer's Liking. Seasonal Flavors Will Be Available As Well.

"We'll Be Opening With A Summer Assortment Selection," Says Bonnie. "There's Breakfast Sandwiches. We've Partnered With Reed's Dairy To Offer Donut Sundaes And Milkshakes, Along With Hot Beverages Like Coffee, Espressos And Cappuccino."

The Family-Friendly Store Has A Viewing Area Where Customers Can Watch Their Donuts Being Made. A Kit Is Available To Purchase And Take Home So People Can Have A Similar Experience With Their Families.

"We're Not Selling Donuts, We're Selling An Experience (For Customers To Enjoy)," Bonnie Explains.

The Wetsels Have Fond Memories Of Going To A Duck Donuts Location In Utah, And Their Experience Inspired Them To Open A Location In Eastern Idaho. Bonnie Says The Donuts Were Irresistible And The Restaurant Offered An Unforgettable Experience And Values They Admired.

Duck Donuts First Opened In 2007 In The Beach Resort Towns Of Duck And Kitty Hawk, North Carolina With The Intention To Create An Oasis For Vacationers To Enjoy Fresh Donuts. The Company Started Franchising In 2013, And Has Grown To Include More Than 100 Locally Owned And Operated Shops Across 21 States And One International Location In Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

A Meridian Location Is Opening This Weekend.

Bonnie And Wyatt Wetsel Have Lived In The Idaho Falls Area Since 2008. They Also Own 5 Star Truck And Auto, A Car Dealership At 6030 South Yellowstone Avenue In Idaho Falls. The Wetsels Have Five Children And Recently Became Grandparents.

Once The Ammon Store Is Up And Running, The Couple Plans To Open Another Location In Twin Falls And Jackson.

Duck Donuts In Ammon Will Be Open 8 A.M. To 5 P.M. During The Grand Opening. After That, The Hours Of Operation Will Be 7 A.M. To 9 P.M. Monday Through Saturday And 8 A.M. To Noon Sunday.

The Egin Lakes Campground Will Open For The 2021 Season At 8 A.M. On April 28.

The Campground Is Managed By The Bureau Of Land Management's Idaho Falls District Office And Has 48 Campsites With Electric Hookup, Shelter, Picnic Table/Fire Ring, Dump Station And Access To Potable Water.

The Campsites Are First-Come, First-Served And Provide Ohv Enthusiasts Direct Access To The St. Anthony Sand Dunes.

"Access To Outdoor Spaces Where People Can Recreate, Get Some Fresh Air And Exercise, And Enjoy Nature Is Important To Idahoans, And We Relish Being A Part Of That," Said Mary D'aversa, Idaho Falls District Manager. "However, We Must Do That While Ensuring The Health And

Safety Of Our Employees And Visitors, So Please Follow Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Guidelines And Blm Requirements To Prevent The Spread Of Covid-19.”

More Than 250,000 Visitors Come To The Dunes Each Season.

The Bureau Is Following Guidance From The Cdc And Working With State And Local Health Authorities To Minimize The Risk Of Covid-19 Transmission. Visitors Are Encouraged To Recreate Responsibility By Doing Their Part When Visiting Public Lands. This Includes Following [Cdc Guidance](#) To Wear A Mask That Covers Your Nose And Mouth To Help Protect Yourself And Others And To Stay 6 Feet Apart From Others Who Don't Live With You As Well As Complying With [Blm Requirements](#) For Wearing Masks Outdoors On Public Lands Where Physical Distancing Is Not Feasible.

The Annual Egin-Hamer Area Closure Lifts On May 1 At Sunrise, And Visitors Are Being Reminded That Motorized Travel Is Limited To Existing Roads And Trails. The Closure Places Nearly 500 Square Miles Of Land Off-Limits To Human Entry For The Protection Of Wintering Deer, Elk And Moose Herds. It Begins On Jan. 1 And Lasts Through The End Of March On Lands South Of Egin-Hamer Road And Until April 30, North Of It.

Idaho Gives, The State's Largest Campaign Of Online Giving, Will Kick Off Its 2021 Campaign On April 29.

More Than 650 Nonprofits Are Signed Up To Participate In This Year's Event. That Is A Record For Idaho Gives.

The Campaign Will Run For A Full Week, Beginning April 29 And Ending Thursday, May 6.

“Idaho Gives Is Such An Important Platform For Nonprofits And Donors. Donors Can Easily Search For Causes And Organizations They're Passionate About And Nonprofits Can Take Advantage Of The Collective Voice Of Nonprofits To Elevate Their Own Causes And Campaigns” Says Summer Dupree, Idaho Nonprofit Center's Idaho Gives Project Manager.

Prizes Are A Major Component Of Idaho Gives And Will Be Awarded Throughout The Week.

I Have A Feel-Good Story Tip. My Niece, Alyza Bingham Of Rupert Idaho Was Recently Notified By Google That A Doodle She Had Submitted In A Nationwide Kid's Doodle Contest With The Theme, "I Am Strong Because," Was Selected For The Entire State Of Idaho To Compete In A National Competition Against 9 Other Drawings In Her Age Division.

If Her Doodle Wins The Voting Phase, She Will A \$50,000 Grant For Her School As Well As A \$30,000 Scholarship! If She Is Selected Not Selected As The Grand Champion, But Wins In Her Age Division, She Will Receive A \$5,000 Scholarship.

Our Community Can Support Her By Going To https://Doodles.Google.Com/D4g/Vote/?Fbclid=Iwar3ujpexqw7xr7pc_Jkynuwx7qefyvafzz6z3zhe7wcnc7paadap0i85m4 And Clicking On The Grades 4-5 Tab And Voting For Idaho's Alyza Bingham. Any Awareness You Can Bring To The Community To Support A Local Student And School Is Much Appreciated And Much Needed In A Time Of So Many Sad Stories.

Southeastern Idaho Public Health Announces a Public Health Outreach Program to Assist Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities During this Pandemic Called “Hands to Hearts”

Residents at Long-Term Care Facilities are a vulnerable population that have been deeply affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Once someone in the facility tests positive, residents are required to isolate in their bedroom for 14 days per Federal Law by the Centers for Medicare/ Medicaid Services (CMS). This can result in negative impacts on their social, mental, and physical health.

SIPH will be addressing this problem through the program “Hands to Hearts”. We are asking the community to write letters to these residents to help them get through this pandemic and remind them that they are not alone. It is our hope that through this, we can make a difference in their lives and take step towards a brighter future.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please send your letter for residents to SIPH at 1901 Alvin Ricken Drive Pocatello, ID 83201, ATTN: Hands to Hearts.

This program will be ongoing and contains three parts.

Part 1: "Hands to Hearts" will work with the community to provide letters to Residents of Long-Term Care Facilities.

Part 2: "Hands to Hearts" will provide Long-Term Care Facility Residents exercises and activities to do in their rooms.

Part 3: "Hands to Hearts" will provide Long-Term Care Facility Residents Health Educational Materials about COVID-19 and the vaccine so that they can stay safe and informed.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to Lindsey DeLaMare at 208-589-3344.

It is of the utmost importance that residents during this pandemic keep their social, mental, and physical health strong and healthy. This program will address and improve health in all three areas.

Military tribute truck unveiled

Keep an eye out for a unique work of rolling art on our highways.

Super T Transport in Idaho Falls unveiled this military tribute truck Monday.

Several employees of the trucking company submitted designs for the veteran-themed wrap.

In the end, Bryce Marshall walked away with the company's first-ever congeniality award.

"It brought my wife and I to tears," Marshall said. "Being able to drive something like this that, it's not so much for me, as it is for the brothers, the sister. Everybody I've lost. Y'know, just for, it's for them, and I get lucky enough to drive it. Show it off."

Even the president of Super T tells us he too saw the design for the first time at the public debut.

Summer is here and you know what that means.

"It's time to start planning out your summer for your children and getting ready for your kids to be out of school for the summer," said Director of Idaho Falls Parks and Recreation PJ Holm.

The department's latest digital newsletter will help you plan out everything you need, according to Holm.

"Our brand new Idaho Falls weekly newsletter is exactly that resource that you're looking for," said Holm.

The department used to send paper copies to elementary schools for students to take home.

Holm says with the digital age continuing to grow, this transition felt like the right move.

"We are moving forward into the digital age and now have an easier way for you to know what's going on," said Holm.

Whether its planning for swimming lessons, checking out local sporting events, or experiencing something for the whole family, Holm says the old method is gone for good.

"No more having to hope that those program guides make it from school home and no more having three or four guides come home to the same family," said Holm.

Holm says this method is easier and more accessible for the Idaho Falls community to utilize.

"We're really excited about this new chapter in Idaho Falls Parks and Recreations marketing and looking forward to unveiling that to the community," said Holm.

The newsletter will be sent out on a weekly basis every Friday for the rest of the year.

According to Holm. 17,000 residents are subscribed to the newsletter already and they hope to get more as the year goes on.

Some of the programs will detail restrictions depending on what the event is according to Holm.

But he says for the most part, this year will offer a whole lot more compared to the past year.

"We absolutely will be offering swim lessons, all of our programs, educational classes," said Holm. "We are going to be running at just about full capacity again this year after the pandemic last year."
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The Shannon Wilker Foundation and the Idaho State Police are joining forces for the 4th annual 'Crusade Against Cancer' Family Fun Run this weekend.

The foundation was created to honor Shannon Wilker who passed away from breast cancer in 2011.

The 'Crusade Against Cancer' fun run proceeds go to benefit local cancer patients.

The fun run is Saturday June 5th at Snakeriver Landing in Idaho Falls.

There will be a 1 mile, a 5K and a 10K.

Participants are encouraged to dress up in superhero costumes.

“It’s just nice for people to get out and do something, but it’s also nice for people to come down, because they know they’re supporting a good cause and they know by being down there, they’re helping someone in their community with their participation in this event,” says Shane Wilker, Creator of the Shannon Wilker Foundation and organizer of the ‘Crusade Against Cancer’ Event.

The event is this Saturday June 5th.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the fun run starts at 9:00 a.m.

There will be a cheerleader contest at 8:00 a.m. and a costume contest at 8:30 a.m.

To register online go to www.shannonwilkerfoundation.org

Idaho Falls Chukars General Manager Kevin Green has been inducted into the Chukkas Hall of Fame.

The Idaho Falls Chukars, the oldest team in the Pioneer League, has been around for 81 years. And Kevin Greene has managed the team since 1993 and his family and staff wanted to surprise him on opening night by inducting him. For the past 28 years, Greene has worked hard to establish a community around the game of baseball.

“I’m totally surprised I’m at a loss of words,” says Kevin Greene,” Everyone here has been so important to me for so long. My family, the sports group. I wouldn’t be able to have a great career in baseball or any career for that

matter without their support and the chukars giving me the opportunity to come here and work hard for them. The fans here there's so many that I've known for so many years. I love you guys.”

The 'Am Vets' held a Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday.

The ceremony was held at the Bannock County Veterans Memorial Building in Pocatello.

'Am Vet' Honor Guard Miguel Dominic says the ceremony was to honor the men and women who were killed in battle.

At the ceremony they raised the flag and lowered it to half mass as a tribute to those who lost their lives.

“Because it pays tribute to those that have died and I served in Iraq and I've seen firsthand, you know what that does to people and it's something that hits close to home and for every veteran, for those that didn't make it home, this is our way to thank them, you know for them making the ultimate sacrifice,” says Miguel Dominic, Am Vets Honor Guard Commander.

Last year the ceremony was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A new business is coming to Historic Downtown Pocatello.

CEO of Bannock Development, MiaCate Kennedy says EMI Health will be located at the former Wells Fargo Building on Main Street in Pocatello.

The boutique medical insurance company will employ 25 to 50 people with the possibility to expand in the future.

This location will be one of their Customer Solution Centers.

“It’s wonderful. It brings more people to downtown and good paying jobs. They have great benefits. They are a wonderful company that really respects and takes care of their employees, so this will be great to have them downtown with all the restaurants and the shops and they were really excited to be located down there,” says MiaCate Kennedy, CEO, Bannock Development.

The company hopes to be up and running in the new location by the end of the month

The ‘Field of Heroes’ is back in full force this year.

A Dedication Ceremony is being held at Century High School in Pocatello to start the weekend events off.

7,017 markers are placed on the field to honor and represent each service member killed in combat after 9/11.

A K-9 memorial is also being unveiled for the first time this year.

Organizers of the event say they are glad that things are back to normal with this year’s ‘Field of Heroes.’

“We are so excited to be back. It was really hard for a lot of us. It was hard for the entire country last year, but it was hard on us to not put the field up, you know, it means so much, not only to our Gold Star families, but to the men and women who served alongside. These people who are represented in the field, they need to be able to have some time to come out and to memorialize their friends and to heal,” says Melissa Hartman, Bannock County Veteran Services Coordinator and Coordinator of the ‘Field of Heroes.’

You can find the lineup for all the ceremonies on the 'Field of Heroes' Facebook page.

The 'Field of Heroes' closing ceremony will be held on Monday at 5:30 p.m.
