

THE LIVINGSTON
ENTERPRISE

Walking
in her
shoes:
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Biologist Ross Crandall, of conservation group Craighead Beringia South, releases a golden eagle in the Swingley Road area during the early spring after fitting it with a GPS monitoring device. Researchers with the group have recently been surprised to find increased numbers of the birds in the area as national golden eagle populations decline.

Photos courtesy of Craighead Beringia South

Near Gardiner Man river

By Camden Easterling
Enterprise Staff Writer

A 33-year-old man died Thursday after falling out of a raft on the Yellowstone River near Gardiner.

Christopher Johnson appears to have drowned, but Park County officials will have an autopsy performed to formally determine the cause and manner of death, Deputy Coroner Jake Devries said Friday. Johnson, was an active duty member of the Navy who was from Indiana but stationed in Virginia, Devries said.

Johnson was on a rafting trip with Flying Pig Adventure Company that operates out of Gardiner, Lt. Tom Totland of the Park County Sheriff's Office said Friday.

At some point on the trip Johnson was knocked out

For those... 1

For these eagle researchers

Goldens Rule

By Wes Venteicher
Enterprise Staff Writer

SHIELDS VALLEY — While much remains unknown about the golden eagle population of the Yellowstone and Shields river valleys, one conservation group's ongoing studies show an unprecedented number of the rare birds are either migrating through the area or taking up residence.

"It is possible that this is the hot spot for golden eagles in North America," biologist Ross Crandall said earlier this week.

Crandall and Bryan Bedrosian, who both work with the group Craighead Beringia South, based in Jackson, Wyo., have been in the Shields Valley area for the last week. They have been counting nests and preparing to fit an adult eagle with a tracking device.

The researchers recently began adding to a study begun roughly 50 years ago. The original study examined the effect of pesticides on the local golden eagle population. As part of the current study, researchers are determining whether the local golden eagle population is following a general trend of decline in North America, and if so, to seek the reason for the decline.

Observers at monitoring sites in Canada and in Western states from Montana to Arizona have noted declines in recent years, Crandall said. Monitoring locations such as one in the Bridger Mountain Range have reported declines.

No one knows the cause, he said.

A surprising study

The local study so far is inconclusive, he said. The biologists started surveying and counting birds and fixing them with GPS tracking devices last year. The study will continue for another two to three years.

But recent findings indicate the local



Crandall holds a golden eagle he caught near Clyde Park in early spring and fitted with a monitoring device before releasing it.

population has grown in recent years.

About 86 adult golden eagles live in a study area that reaches from Livingston to Big Timber and from Clyde Park to the Boulder River area, Crandall said. During a 1990s visit, the group found 34 adult golden eagles in the same area. The original 1960s study conducted by the group's founder, John Craighead, found 34 to 46 eagles.

But those numbers may not tell the whole story, Crandall said.

While the number of breeding pairs has increased, the biologists do not yet have enough data to determine what

percentage of eggs are hatching and growing to adulthood — a critical indicator of population trends.

Pairs of the eagles mate for life. During spring, they care for their young in cliffs and treetop nests. The biologists' studies have focused on identifying the areas and nests used by adult eagle pairs, and on monitoring young eagles.

Mating golden eagle pairs occupy "territories" of indeterminate size, Crandall said. Around February, pairs stake out areas, likely of a few square miles, in which they establish nests and raise their young. The birds fly in large W-shaped patterns above the nests to indicate to other eagles an area is "full," Crandall said.

Recent surveys by Crandall and Bedrosian found 43 territories, many of which did not exist in the '90s.

Last year, they found 20 eagle eggs had hatched and chicks had grown to sprout feathers. Fledgling eagles take about 5 years to reach adulthood. Approximately 25 percent of fledglings live to become adults, Crandall said.

In the week they have been here as part of their latest visit, the researchers have checked 14 nests. They found eight of the nests held a total of 11 chicks. They plan to continue studies for another week, and will attempt to capture an adult eagle next week.

The researchers capture eagles by baiting them with pigeons. One biologist sits in a tent with a drawstring to spring the trap, while the other provides surveillance from nearby cover.

New questions, new methods

New GPS devices the researchers are attaching to the eagles will help answer some questions about the birds. The solar-powered devices, which Crandall

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Wisconsin man faces 23 fish and game violations

By Enterprise Staff

A Wisconsin man is facing more than 20 fish and game violations in a Park County court.

John J. Dziaduch, 56, of Seymour, Wis., appeared in Justice Court Tuesday on 23 citations ranging from making false statements in order to obtain a resident sportsman hunt-

Relatives' DNA used to identify

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal authorities used DNA from "multiple family members" and facial recognition technology to identify the body of Osama bin Laden, according to court papers filed Friday that formally dropped terrorism charges against the slain al-Qaida leader.

The papers detail the CIA's painstaking efforts to make sure the man killed May 2 during a Navy SEALs raid of his compound in Pakistan was indeed bin Laden.

cally matched the derived comprehensive DNA profile for Osama bin Laden."

It added: "The possibility of a mistaken identification is approximately one in 11.8 quadrillion."

The CIA used the facial recognition technology to compare old photos of bin Laden to photos of his body, the papers said, and concluded "with high confidence that the deceased individual was bin Laden."

The document also makes a

charges he that left 18 dead in So indictment under seal later that y

The indictment revised to dual bomb embassies killed 224 of the suicide in 2000. No involved th

A toddler appeared uninjured after falling from a third-floor window in an apartment building in downtown Great Falls.

The 2-year-old fell just before 8 p.m. Thursday, landing on the grass.

Officer William Klundt says when he arrived the boy had no apparent injuries, but was taken to the hospital to be evaluated.

Enterprise Staff

Entrance will be free to Yellowstone National Park Tuesday.

The National Park Service is waiving entrance fees at all national parks on Tuesday, June 21, in celebration of the first day of summer, according to an NPS press release.

All park roads, lodging, and stores are open for the season, as are most of Yellowstone's campgrounds.

The entrance fee waiver does not include

other fees such as those charged for camping, reservations, tours and use of concessions services, the release states.

A seven-day pass to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks is normally \$25 for a private, non-commercial vehicle.

Lodging and campground information is available at (307) 344-2114; road information at (307) 344-2117.

Additional fee-free days in 2011 are National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 24, and the Veterans Day weekend, November 11-13.

Goldens, from Page 1

estimated cost about \$4,000, emit tracking signals regularly, providing detailed information about the birds' habits. The devices can provide researchers with clues about the birds' patterns, such as where they forage for food.

Through GPS monitoring, Crandall and Bedrosian hope to identify short-range as well as long-range habits. Some eagles migrate and some don't, Crandell said.

During previous studies, researchers simply banded the eagles they caught. Studies showed some of the birds traveled from here to locations as remote as northern Alaska and Texas.

Recent population increases could indicate the Yellowstone area is an increasingly popular place for the birds to live, Crandall said. Or it could be a stopover point for eagles migrating

along the Rocky Mountains from Alaska and Canada to Southwest states.

Eagles living south of Canada are thought to be non-migrational — though the researchers' studies could show otherwise, he said.

Food sources

Short-range data collected from GPS units should show how much area nesting eagles cover while raising their young, Crandall said. That information could eventually inform best management practices for wind farms and other forms of development that can impact eagles, he said.

One of the primary factors affecting eagles' behavior is the availability of food sources. Hares tend to be eagles' preferred dish, Crandall said. Of about 2,000 items eagles are known to eat, hares make up about 60 percent of local eagles' diets, he said. Other mainstays

include gophers, carrion, birds such as magpies and grouse, the afterbirth of large mammals and the occasional deer fawn.

Crandall and Bedrosian have also discovered a new trend in the birds' selection of nesting locations. At the time of the original study, 60 to 70 percent of the birds nested in cliffs, Crandell said. Now, closer to 50 percent nest in cliffs and 50 percent take up residence in tree-tops. He speculated perhaps the prime cliff locations have all been taken.

Whether or not the unusual number of eagles living in the area migrate or live here year-around, the population density the researchers are observing is unlike anything in North America, Crandall said. The biologists' ongoing studies should help reveal some unknowns about a species that has, in other areas, experienced as much as a 50 percent population decline.

Wild Horse and Burro
ADOPTION

June 24 - 25

Bozeman, Montana Gallatin County Fairgrounds
Friday, June 24 Viewing and Training Demos 8am - 7pm
Saturday, June 25 Adoption and Training Demos 8am - 5pm
Competitive Bid Adoption 10am.
First come, first served until 5pm.

866-4MUSTANGS
(866-468-7826) blm.gov



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Wild Horse and Burro Program



Montana Safe Haven Act

Allows parents to surrender their infants no more than 30 days old to a hospital, police station, fire hall or other emergency service worker, anonymously and without fear of prosecution.

GALLATIN VALLEY RIGHT TO LIFE www.gvrtl.com

MARKETS

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Ex	Div	Yld	PE	Last	Daily Chg	YTD %Chg	
AMR	NY	...	...	...	5.72	+10	-26.6
AT&T Inc	NY	1.72	5.6	9	30.79	+36	+4.8	
ActivsBliz	Nasd	.17	1.5	26	10.97	-13	-11.8	
AMD	NY	7	6.98	-22	-14.7
AlcateLLuc	NY	...	...	...	5.11	+05	+72.6
Alcoa	NY	.12	.8	21	14.72	-07	-4.4	
Apple Inc	Nasd	15	321.30	-3.86	-4
ApidMati	Nasd	.32	2.6	10	12.38	-09	-11.9	
Baidu	Nasd	10	117.38	+1.14	+21.6
BcoSantSA	NY	.79	7.0	...	11.31	+58	+6.2	
BkofAm	NY	.04	.4	19	10.62	+02	-20.4	
Bar iPVix rs	NY	...	...	...	25.52	-22	-32.1
BostonSci	NY	19	6.75	-09	-10.9
BrcdeCm	Nasd	22	6.45	-19	+21.9
CBS B	NY	.40	1.5	21	26.11	+75	+37.1	
Chimera	NY	.66	19.4	6	3.41	-08	-17.0	
Cisco	Nasd	.24	1.6	12	14.96	-09	-26.1	
Citigrp rs	NY	.04	.1	13	37.95	+32	-19.8	
Comcast	Nasd	.45	1.9	17	23.64	+20	+8.1	
Dell Inc	Nasd	10	16.01	+01	+18.2
DrSCBrs	NY	...	...	...	41.32	-21	-11.8
DrxFnBull	NY	23.34	+36	-16.2	
DirxSCBull	NY	69.41	+25	-4.2	
eBay	Nasd	20	28.66	+19	+3.0
EMC Cp	NY	28	25.85	-20	+12.9



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...check The Enterprise Markets every day to keep track of the stock markets, mutual funds and other financial news.