




- » Home
- » News
 - Local/State News
 - Local Sports
 - Archives
 - Blogs
 - Business
 - Celebrations
 - Editorials/Viewpoints
 - Forums
 - Lifestyle
 - Local Video 
 - Mobile Site
 - Multimedia 
 - Nation/World
 - Obituaries
 - Outdoors
 - Photo Galleries
 - Prep Sports
 - Special Sections
 - Technology
 - Travel
 - Video News - Nation
 - Weather

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ACROSS the BIG SKY

"Yellow School Bus Tour" hits Hi-Line

HELENA — State Superintendent of Public Instruction Linda McCulloch is bringing her "Yellow School Bus Tour" to North Star, Chester-Joplin-Inverness, Conrad and Power schools next week.

McCulloch and 10 key staff members will travel the Hi-Line to hear the schools' goals and concerns firsthand. She began the bus tour roughly six years ago, usually taking four or five trips a year on buses donated by school bus contractors.

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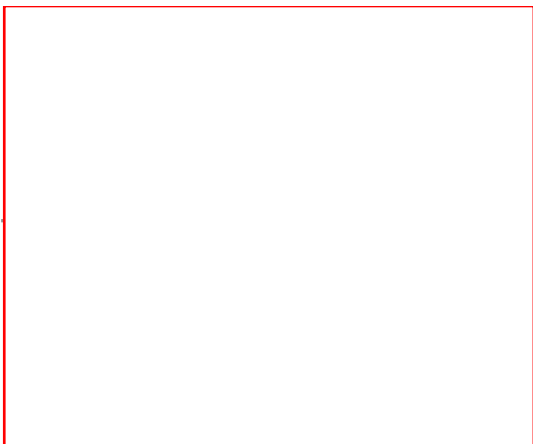
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Her trip will include touring North Star High School with student body officers, attending math, science and music classes at the elementary school in Gildford, eating lunch with Meadowlark Elementary students in Conrad and learning about the Utterback Middle School bully prevention program.

The tour stops at North Star High School in **Rudyard** Tuesday at 7:55 a.m.; at **Chester-Joplin-Inverness** Wednesday at 8 a.m.; at **Conrad's** schools on Thursday and in **Power** on Friday.

Woman identified in Yellowstone death

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Park officials Monday identified a California woman who fell to her death in **Yellowstone National Park** on Friday.

Charlotte Harrison, 32, of Beverly Hills, and a 39-year-old male friend from Los Angeles were traveling through the park and stopped to take pictures at a pullout in the Calcite Springs area just north of Tower Fall.

Rangers were called to the cliff at 6:30 p.m. Friday and arrived to see Harrison lying motionless on the canyon floor next to the Yellowstone River.

A ranger rappelled down the 400-foot cliff and confirmed she had died. The area was near where a Michigan woman stepped over a rock retaining wall and fell to her death in June 2006.

Since it was dark, park staff waited until Saturday morning to remove Harrison's body up the steep terrain from the canyon floor.

An autopsy performed over the weekend confirmed the cause of death was the trauma of the fall. The incident is under investigation.

Animal rescuers get top honors

OVANDO — The founders of the Rolling Dog Ranch Animal Sanctuary in Ovando were one of six recipients of the international Animal Action Awards.


Steve Smith and Alayne Marker will be honored Thursday, World Animal Day, at a reception in Santa Monica, Calif.

Established in 2000, the 160-acre ranch is a haven for nearly 80 rescued disabled animals — those that are least likely to be adopted, including blind and deaf dogs, horses and cats.

It's the first time the International Fund for Animal Welfare has given the award.

California's Lt. Gov. John Garamendi will receive a lifetime achievement award, and actor and writer Ben Stein will be recognized as the 2007 Animal Advocate for his work with abandoned Hurricane Katrina pets.

"These winners are a shining example of dedication and commitment to animals," said IFAW President Fred O'Regan. "Their tireless efforts are truly inspirational. They are real animal heroes and are helping us create a better world for both animals and people."

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Originally published October 2, 2007

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