

THE LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

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No injuries in 60' rollover down embankment

By Liz Kearney
Enterprise Staff Writer

A vehicle slid about 60 feet down a steep embankment off the Emigrant Creek Road above Old Chico Wednesday morning, but the driver escaped with just minor injuries.

The emergency services call came in about 8 a.m., Park County Sheriff Scott Hamilton said Wednesday. Paradise Valley Fire and EMS responded, but staged down the road from the scene due to slippery road conditions, Hamilton said.

Montana Highway Patrol Officer Erick Fetterhoff was on scene to conduct the accident investigation, according to an MHP dispatcher.

The vehicle that slid off the road, identified only as a Subaru without the make or model year, was driven by one man, whose age and hometown were not yet available, Hamilton said. The Subaru landed on its roof.

Park County Deputy Ben Bailey responded to the scene. He was able to walk down the steep embankment to reach the vehicle and the driver.

"I witnessed him crawl out of the car," Bailey said Wednesday.

Bailey held the man's hand and helped him walk up the embankment. The man was checked by ambulance staff and transported to Livingston HealthCare for evaluation, Bailey said.

Fetterhoff was not immediately available to return a call seeking more information about the accident.

Cloudy with a chance of cheeseburgers



Enterprise photos by Nate Howard

ABOVE: Logan Meader cleans inside Mark's In & Out drive-in restaurant Wednesday in preparation for tomorrow's official opening of the iconic burger stand, marking its 64th season in business. Scott Black, the owner for 38 years, said they will start with hours from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week and expand hours as summer approaches. Helping with the spring cleaning are Michael Snyder and Frances Lindner. The restaurant has 30 employees with a crew of seven on each shift. Considering the tight space, Black said the crew works like "a basketball team, playing zone defense."

RIGHT: A sign donated by a Livingston resident displays the menu options and prices from the 1960s.



Photo courtesy Yellowstone National Park

A line of vehicles forms at the north entrance of Yellowstone National Park June 26, 2017.

Interior backing away from steep fee hikes at national parks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Interior Department is backing down from a plan to impose steep fee increases at popular national parks in the face of widespread opposition from elected officials and the public.

The plan would nearly triple entrance fees at 17 of the nation's most popular parks, including the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone and Zion, forcing visitors to pay \$70 per vehicle during the peak summer season.

While plans are still being finalized, a spokeswoman for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said officials have "taken the public's suggestions seriously and have amended the plan to reflect those" comments.

Zinke announced the fee hike last October, saying it could raise \$70 million a year to pay for maintenance projects at the National Park Service. The plan drew immediate resistance from lawmakers and governors of both parties, who said the higher fees could exclude many Americans from enjoying national parks.

City of Livingston OKs agreement on new position

By Liz Kearney
Enterprise Staff Writer

The Livingston City Commission approved an agreement with the Park County Community Foundation and the county's Early Childhood Coalition during its regular meeting Tuesday night.

A grant-funded Early Childhood Coalition Coordinator would be hired as a City of Livingston employee who would fall under the Recreation Department, the city's Administrative Services Director Lisa Lowy told the commissioners.

City Manager Mike Kardoes, responding to a comment from a community member about the need to create another city employee, said that while the position is mostly grant-funded, the city has the systems already in place to administer the position and provide office space. The city can administer the position much more efficiently than the grant holder, the Park County Community Foundation, could.

"This will make the grant go as far as we can to benefit the children of Park County," Kardoes said.

The Early Childhood Coalition oversees a number of recreational and other programs for young children through events held at the Livingston Civic Center.

One program, called "Wiggle Wednesday" is often attended by 50 to 100 children and parents, Lowy said.

The program, in addition to providing a safe place to play, also provides information about parenting and other resources, Lowy said.

The programs are available to all children in Park County, not just city residents, Kardoes said.

The financial impact on the city's coffers would be no more than \$5,000, along with other in-kind donations such as office space and shared supplies and resources, according to a legisla-

tive action summary on the project provided by Lowy.

According to the memorandum of understanding between the city and the Park County Community Foundation, the foundation administers a program designed to improve "networking, resource access, quality child care access, early childhood health intervention, trauma-informed care, kindergarten readiness and wellness and health of the young children aged 0-8 and their families in Park County."

In other business:

• Commissioners provided a plaque and a gift to Livingston resident Eileen Berrum for her many years of tending a flower garden in Sacajawea Park. Commissioners and meeting attendees stood and offered Berrum a standing ovation as well.

• The commission agreed to contribute one-third of the cost of banners — about \$250 — purchased by the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce. The banners are to let people know that downtown Livingston is

open for business during the road reconstruction that began this week.

• And the commission discussed ways to improve communication with the Urban Renewal Agency. Commissioners agreed that a work session with the URA board would be beneficial, but did not immediately set a date and time to meet.

• Kardoes suggested, based on input he's had from member of the public, that the commission hold its public comment period at the beginning of meetings rather than at the end. Members of the public who wanted to address the commission, Kardoes said, wouldn't have to wait until the very end of the meeting to do so.

Commission Chairwoman Dorel Hoglund agreed it was worth trying and would implement the change on a trial basis at the April 17 meeting. Other commissioners expressed concerns that long public comment periods could delay their own business, but agreed to give the change a try.

