

June 26, 2011

The Kids' Fishing Derby at Beaver Lake is scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, July 2nd; registration starts at the lake at 8:00 a.m. The Red Feather Fireworks display will be at dusk on Saturday, July 2nd. Watch for a more complete list of activities and events; I hope to have that information to you in this email on Thursday, June 30th.

Special Notice from the Bear Aware Team and DOW Officer Jim Jackson: There have been several bear sightings recently; and a bear entered a garage and removed a container of dog food. This bear now has made the connection between humans, structures and food; and Jim warns that it may become a problem bear because of that association. Now is not the time for photo ops. The bear(s) need a "negative human experience". They quickly associate a food source reward with people, buildings, or vehicles. Jim Jackson said the only time to take a picture of a bear is if it's hundreds of yards away and you are using a telephoto lens. Otherwise, make lots of noise, use pepper spray on the bear, clang pots and pans, use an airhorn, yell and be downright unpleasant. That sort of "bad experience" will re-enforce to the bear that people and their homes, trailers, cars and tents are just not good places to explore. Roll up all the windows on your vehicles and lock the doors when you park. If a bear approaches your vehicle, sound the key alarm, or set the alarm to trigger if the vehicle is bumped – if you have a vehicle with that sort of alarm system.

Along those same lines, be exceptionally cautious about disturbing the cow moose and their calves. The moose will not tolerate anything near their young that they think may be a threat. All the "Moms" of our many animal species can be very protective of their young, and can easily inflict injuries to anyone or anything they perceive as a danger. Again, if you happen on moose, elk or doe with young, don't stop and take photos until you are far away and safe from any threat of attack. These animals can cover a long distance much faster than you can run, so be extremely cautious. Just enjoy seeing the wildlife and absorb every minute of the experience. Take pictures of "where you saw the critter" at a later time, without putting yourself or others at risk during the moment. (That's how some of the best fish stories come about, or so I've been told. There isn't a picture of the "one that got away", just the teller's memory, which is free to grow with each telling!)

Your new I.D. badges are available for you to pick up at the office. Old badges expire July 1st. Plan to bring you new badges back to the office to have the FY 11-12 stickers affixed after the office receives notice from the bank that your FY 11-12 Road & Rec. assessments have been paid.

I'll keep you posted.
Jody