



Carl Obert, of Rochester, circles the boardwalk at Grand Prismatic Spring, the largest spring in the United States and third largest in the world.

See world's first national park

Vast, dazzling Yellowstone a feast for the eyes

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NIDA OBERT • enida@postbulletin.com

On Aug. 25, the National Park Service is celebrating its centennial. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 and is the world's first national park. And it is dazzling. Whether taking in the extensive wildlife in the Lamar Valley, gazing over the colorful Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or pondering the curious thermal

features, Yellowstone National Park pulls visitors in with its natural splendor and wonder. Come and be captivated. **About the writer:** Elizabeth Nida Obert is a Post-Bulletin senior staff photographer. **Where you stayed:** Lodging options in the park are vast and excellent. The Old Faithful Inn is worth a peek.

Travel tip: Carry bear spray, particularly if you plan on doing any hiking. **Where to eat:** Lake Yellowstone Hotel Dining Room. **Side trips:** Jackson, Wyo., and Grand Teton National Park. **Further information:** www.nps.gov/yell



Yellowstone National Park has the largest concentration of mammals in the lower 48 states. Sightings included grizzly bear, pronghorn and bison.



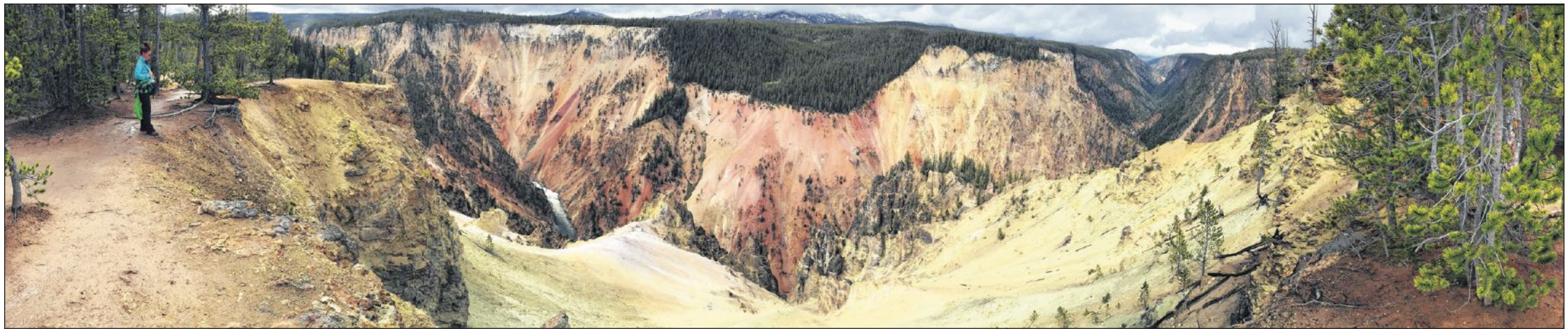
West Thumb Geyser Basin features hot springs and geysers.



Hiking trails abound in the park. Don't forget your bear spray.



Minerva Terrace at Mammoth Hot Springs is accessible year-round.



Elizabeth Nida Obert, of Rochester, hikes along the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The canyon is 20 miles long, 4,000 feet wide and up to 1,200 feet deep.

Here's how to survive airline computer outages (or any delay)

BY GEORGE HOBICA
Tribune News Service

The airlines have experienced many computer outages over the last few years, stranding thousands of passengers and causing untold economic damage. Whether they're caused by electrical failures outside the airlines' control or by computer systems with inadequate "fail safe" recovery or

electrical backup capabilities, read on for some protections and strategies to survive these glitches. **You can cancel:** Passengers can ask for a refund, even on a "non-refundable" airfare, if a flight is canceled or "severely" delayed (severe varies from airline to airline but generally a two-hour delay qualifies). **If you bought travel insurance:** While some poli-

cies may not cover electrical outages or computer system shutdowns, others will. Most common: coverage for trip delays if you need meals or a hotel room or other reasonable expenses, and costs associated with getting to your destination. **If you have credit card coverage:** Some credit cards, notably those issued by Chase for United and Sapphire and some upper-tier Citibank

American Airlines cards, offer trip-delay protection (typically up to \$500 for meals, hotels, etc.) for "equipment failure"; whether this means aircraft or computer equipment is open to interpretation. You must charge your trip with the credit card. **If you're stuck on the runway or tarmac:** U.S. Department of Transportation regulations state that you can request to be deplaned if

the delay stretches past three hours on a domestic flight or four hours on an international trip. **You can ask to be put on another airline:** Years ago, airlines were required to do this for free. No longer, but you can still ask to be endorsed over to a competing airline. The higher your status in the frequent-flyer program the more likely they'll take care of you.

Get thee to the airline's lounge: Even if you're not already a member, this is the perfect time to cool your jets in the Delta Skyclub, the American Admirals Club or the United Red Carpet room. Day passes are typically \$50, but if you're going to be stuck for hours, it's worth it. Also, the lines for rebooking or information will be shorter in these lounges than in the terminals.