

Montana Firewatch 2023 - Update as of August 4, 2023

By Karen McIlwain, August 4, 2023



Aerial view of Rogers Pass Fire on August 1 Credit: Inciweb

The Colt Fire started 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake on Monday, July 17, which was reportedly started by lightning. This fire as of August 4th was 7,179 acres in size with 23% containment. Firefighters have been working hard to

control the fire, which has increased due to higher temperatures and lower humidity.

On the fire's west side about 1 mile north of Sunset Peak a spot fire became very active yesterday afternoon.

The spot increased in size and moved in a southerly direction, crossing Forest Road 9570. East of Sunset Peak, retardant from aircraft was used to keep the fire in check and keep it from moving south.

Crews continued to construct handlines along the south side working to the west and staying north of the West Fork of the Clearwater River. On the east side, along Forest Road 646 (Colt/Uhler Road) engine crews continued to patrol, mop up, and increase containment. On the north side, crews shifted their focus to holding and mopping up as fire activity directly along the control lines diminished. Along the northwest side dozer lines and handlines continued to

be strengthened working both north and south of Beaver Lake.

The Structure Protection Group patrolled the Highway 83 corridor and continued structure assessments and supply needs for the Lindbergh Lake area.

In the southwest corner of the fire personnel will be re-evaluating the locations planned for indirect control line construction and adjusting those actions based on where the spot fire moved. On the forest road systems west of the fire, heavy equipment and crews will work on linking roads and control lines together forming indirect control lines. Along the north side, east side (Forest Road 646),

Continued on page 5

West Property Management

By Karen McIlwain, July 19, 2023



Jamie West is originally from North Carolina and has lived in Helena for the past five years. This year he decided to move to Augusta and is ready to expand his business: West Property Management LLC.

Jamie does a variety of property management and handyman services including managing Airbnb's, landscaping, professional window washing, hedge and tree trimming, splitting firewood, building flower beds, and so much more.

"In college, I was on a team that would go in and clean out every single apartment, after students moved out. We would flip it, paint it,

drywall, fix it, get it back to brand new and ready to rent out the next year," explained Jamie. "I've done landscaping and tree work since I was a kid. The very first business I ever had as a child was cutting grass. I started at 10 years old cutting grass in my neighborhood. I remember passing out little handwritten cards on notebook paper to all my neighbors, anywhere I could

ride a bicycle, and I had a push mower bungeed to my bike."

Jamie has been managing properties for about 20 years now and plans to remain in Augusta providing the best service he can. For more information contact Jamie at westpropmanagementllc@gmail.com or call (336) 596 - 1996.

The Augusta Breeze



Pies of the week

8/9	Apple Chocolate Cherry Chip
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Soups

8/3	Italian Sausage & White Bean
8/7	Bacon CheeseBurger

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Latigo & Lace Artist Showcase - Carey Gray

By Karen McIlwain, August 3, 2023



Photos courtesy of Carey Gray

This issue's artist is Carey Gray, a jewelry artist from Fairfield, Montana. She grew up in Fairfield and even graduated from Fairfield High School.

"My mom was making jewelry for years and I'd never even thought about doing it. She gave me a set of tools for my birthday about 8 years ago and taught me how to make a necklace. I was hooked after that," explained Carey.

Carey makes a variety of styles of jewelry, from simple, to more intricate, and even repurposed. "I just like buying old vintage, stuff

and taking it apart, making it into something that somebody might wear. Then some days I prefer to make blingy, cowgirl type stuff, or maybe hammered steel and leather type stuff, but also incorporating odd and weird things like antique bottle openers, shoehorns or keys, rusty washers out of the field, pieces of plumbing, crawdad claws you find on the shore, rocks from the rivers or whatever I see that potentially could become jewelry."

Her Montana jewelry is a big hit at any time of the year, but especially in the summer for tourists. She also makes beaded pens, bottle toppers,



key chains, boot jewelry, bookmarks, hat bands, lanyards, and car and window dangles.

Carey also does jewelry repair. So, if you have broken jewelry that needs repaired, or maybe you have that family heirloom piece that you would really like to wear but doesn't really fit your style of today, call her at (406) 590-1603 or find her on Facebook at Montana Chicks Jewelry Studio and let her modify or rework it for you. "I like to do a variety because everybody likes something different, from miniscule to bulkier

real stones strung with pendants, and I do them to please anyone's taste, including men and kids."

To see her work and many others, stop by Latigo & Lace and mention you saw them in The Augusta Breeze.



Artist Showcase proudly sponsored by **Latigo & Lace**

Christi Levine - Owner
www.LatigoandLace.com
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Kids for Seniors Work Program

Are you a senior citizen of Augusta, Montana in need of assistance with outdoor chores at your home? Are you having difficulty mowing your lawn, shoveling snow in the winter, washing the outsides of your windows, or anything else you are having a hard time keeping up with? The Augusta Senior Citizens Organization is working with Augusta High School to help with this situation. This program will offer kids to earn a little spending cash, paid for by the Augusta Senior Citizens Organization, while you take it easy and enjoy your day. Stop by the Senior Center, fill out a request form, and let the kids help you with those backbreaking chores. Or you can download the form at <https://bit.ly/3KsVKWT>

Augusta Peddlers on Main

By Karen McIlwain, July 20, 2023

The Augusta Annual Peddlers on Main event is scheduled for Saturday August 12th 10:00 to dusk.

Shop Montana made items, fine art, crafts, antiques,

vintage and more. Plus, community wide garage sale, and Main Street business sidewalk sales.

Vendor spots are free of charge and assigned on a first

come basis. Spaces are approximately 10' long and set up will be available on the morning of the event.

Vendors must provide their own tables and displays, etc. Application can be

downloaded at <https://augustamontana.com/applications>

Please contact Brenda Fenner at (406) 665-6086 for further information.

24th Annual Sun River Valley Fun Day

By Karen McIlwain, July 20, 2023

Come out and enjoy the 24th Annual Sun River Valley Fun Day in Simms on August 12. On the docket is a fun run, breakfast, parade, vendors, food trucks, music, auction, cornhole and horseshoe tournaments along with kid friendly activities. See the Fun Day poster for specific activities

and times. Check <https://www.facebook.com/SunRiverValleyFunDay> for the latest updates.

Proceeds from Fun Day are donated to first responders, youth and senior programs in the valley and surrounding communities. Many thanks to the sponsors who provide

Fun Day support and businesses in Augusta, Cascade, Choteau, Fairfield, Great Falls, and the Sun River Valley who donate items to the Fun Day auction.

Fun Day Theme for 2023 is "Aloha from the Valley"

Vendor Fair - Contact Lynn Rohrer 970-290-7452

All ages event. For more information please contact: Ruth Mortag (406)264-5648 DeeDee Rains (406)264-5501 or Dave Yarger (406)264-5423.

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Keep Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention in Mind When Recreating on Water

By FWP, August, 2023

HELENA – So far this year, FWP and its partners have inspected 66,000 watercraft for aquatic invasive species. Of those, 35 were mussel-fouled and more than 200 were found with aquatic weeds.

FWP and partner agencies, which include tribes, counties and conservation districts, operate more than 17 road-side watercraft inspection stations across the state. To find a watercraft inspection station or to learn more, go to CleanDrainDryMT.com or call the FWP Aquatic Invasive Species Bureau at 406-444-2440.

A July survey for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Beaver Lake near Whitefish found no EWM. Another follow-up survey will be conducted later this month. Eradication of EWM is the goal for Beaver Lake through persistent survey and removal.

Eurasian watermilfoil in Nilan Reservoir (near Augusta) was treated with herbicide by FWP in 2022. Surveys conducted last month found no evidence of EWM in the lake. Nilan is the only location of EWM on the Rocky Mountain Front and EWM eradication is the

objective for that system.

All boaters and other water recreationists need to follow the rules to prevent aquatic invasive species from affecting Montana’s waters.

Those rules include:

All boats must stop at all open watercraft inspection stations they encounter. Failure to do so could result in a fine of up to \$500.

Always be sure to clean, drain and dry your boat.


All watercraft entering Montana are required to be inspected for aquatic invasive

species. An inspection is required before launching on Montana waters.

Non-residents transporting watercraft into Montana must purchase a Vessel AIS Prevention Pass before launching. The fee is \$30 for motorized and \$10 for nonmotorized watercraft. The pass is valid until Dec. 31.

Inspection is required for Montana residents before launch IF: the boat is entering the state, crossing west over the Continental Divide or entering the Flathead basin.

-fwp-



Charles Taylor
banjo@3rivers.net

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Montana Firewatch (continued from page 1)

and southeast corner firefighters will continue to hold and mop up along the line. On the south side, and north of the West Fork of the Clearwater River, four crews will continue to build fire control line moving from east to west. These crews may camp closer to the line to decrease travel time.

Helicopters and airplanes will continue to be used to keep the fire checked up on the west side and southwest corner. The Lindbergh Group will continue structure assessments as well as look for indirect control line opportunities that would have the highest opportunity for success ahead of the fire. A night shift of engines will patrol and monitor fire conditions.

If conditions rapidly change an Evacuation Order may be issued with no prior notice or warning. Home and property owners in the surrounding area should remain vigilant and prepared. Have an evacuation plan for family, pets, and livestock; sign up for emergency alerts at Smart911.com; be familiar with the Missoula County evacuation process and what an order and warning means.

Evacuation information can be found at: <https://www.missoulacounty.us/government/public-safety/office-of-emergency-management/evacuation->



Two water scoopers land on a lake Credit: Inciweb

information

A Temporary Flight Restriction is in place for air space over the Colt Fire (FDC 03/0291) to provide a safe environment for firefighting aircraft operating in the area. An airport closure is in place for the Condon Airstrip (FDC 07/110) for firefighting helicopter operations.

Remember that temporary flight restrictions also apply to unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or drones. A drone incursion occurred on Friday, July 21. Fire managers would like to remind the public that when you fly, they can't. It is also now a criminal misdemeanor in Montana to fly drones that interfere with fire suppression efforts – with a fine up to \$1,500 and the violator has the potential to be charged with firefighting costs.

If you are evacuated due to the Colt Fire and need shelter, please call the Red

Cross at (406) 215-1514.

Other fires in the area include Rogers Pass fire, which started on the afternoon of August 1st south of Highway 200 and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Aviation resources, crews, and heavy equipment from Montana DNRC and the Forest Service are working on the fire with additional resources on order. This fire as of August 4th was 46 acres in size and 25% contained. Thru hikers are advised to exit the Continental Divide Trail at Flesher Pass and reconnect at Roger's Pass.

Bowles Creek fire started following a lightning storm on the evening of July 20, 2023. Ground resources and an early morning helicopter flight on July 21st estimated the Bowles Fire to be approximately 50 acres and the Daly Creek fire on the Bitterroot side of the divide to be approximately 1-2 acres.

The fire is located approximately three miles southwest of Skalkaho Pass in the Sapphire Wilderness Study Area (WSA) in steep terrain. As of August 4th, this fire was 3,267 acres and 3% contained.

Sidney Fire started August 1st approximately 7-8 miles south of Highway 2 and 2.5 miles west from the Badger Cabin admin site. This fire as of August 4th was 100 acres and 0% contained.

Several other fires are in the area, and we will continue to keep you updated as best we can. More information can be found at <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/>

SUE TAYLOR
ATTORNEY

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TAYLORLAW@USA.COM

133 MAIN STREET
AUGUSTA, MT 59410

The Augusta Breeze

Puzzle Page

Solutions to this issues puzzles will be in issue # 93

Word

3 letter

- Ady
- Arm
- Art
- Aua
- Ava
- Dix
- Eek
- Ewa
- Hon
- Hye
- Igo
- Lee
- Ola
- Oto
- Tea
- Toy
- Tye

4 letter

- Alba
- Cego
- Clyo
- Darr
- Edna
- Elko
- Hyak
- Mist
- Omer
- Opal
- Orla
- Yeso

5 letter

- Locke
- Nairn
- Tatum

6 letter

- Edwall
- Estero
- Grandy
- Novato

7 letter

- Accom
- Clarita

- Etrick
- Gleason
- Lancing
- Sunbury
- Tonkawa

8 letter word

- Whipholt

9 letter words

- Deephaven
- Ellinwood
- Lansdowne
- Mount Muir

10 letter word

- Mannington

11 letter words

- Eden Prairie
- West Milford

13 letter word

- Sakonnet River

14 letter word

- Sutton Mountain

15 letter word

- Mount

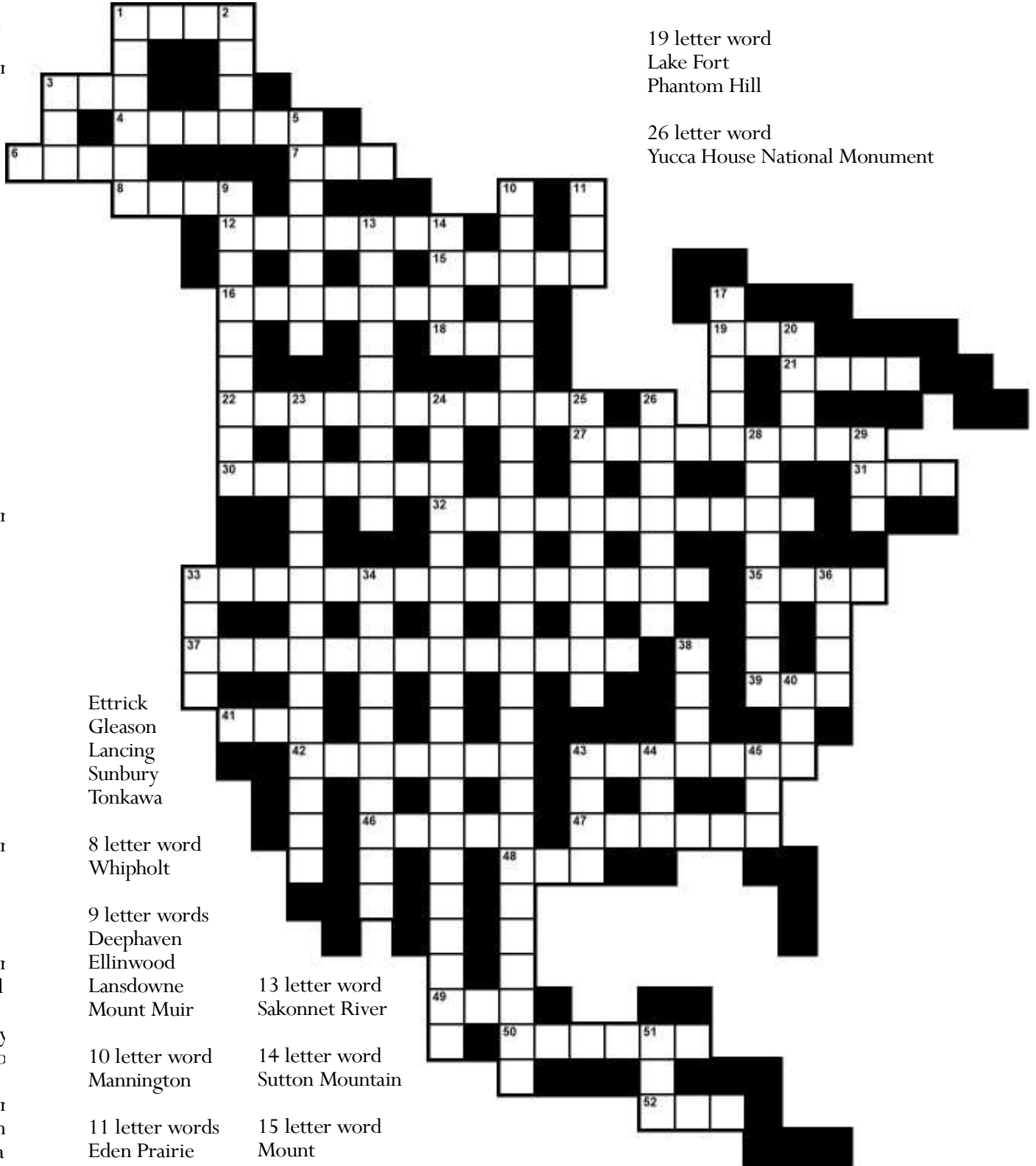
Moosalamoo

19 letter word

- Lake Fort
- Phantom Hill

26 letter word

- Yucca House National Monument

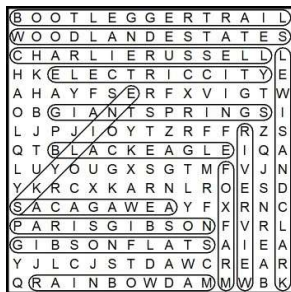


WebDonuts.com



Do you have a comment about The Augusta Breeze? Feel free to call us at 406-604-0632 or email us at info@augustabreeze.com

Answers to issue 91 puzzles



4	9	6	1	2	5	3	7	8
5	7	2	8	6	3	1	9	4
3	1	8	9	7	4	2	5	6
9	5	7	4	3	8	6	2	1
8	6	4	7	1	2	9	3	5
2	3	1	5	9	6	8	4	7
1	4	3	6	5	9	7	8	2
7	8	9	2	4	1	5	6	3
6	2	5	3	8	7	4	1	9

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friday aug 11

(back to first fridays in September)

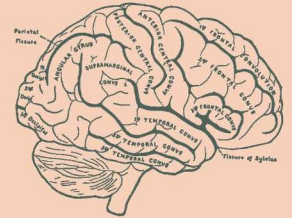
happy hour - 6

game - 6:30

on the patio
weather
permitting

topics:

- *human body
- *dog days of summer
- *sun river
- *AI (not cows)
- *blast from the past



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The Augusta Breeze is focused on people in our community. Subscriptions are available online, and we can be found in many local business for free!

We welcome reader submissions, and love to hear what you think. Feel free to contact us at the address or phone numbers on the left.

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Augusta Community Church

219 Laura St, Augusta, MT 59410

<https://www.augustaccmt.com>

Church Office Phone (406) 562-3435

Pastor John @ 406-899-6838

pastorjohn@3rivers.net

Sunday Morning Service - 10:00 a.m.



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Fairfield, Mt 59436

www.NewLifeFairfield.com

406-467-2713

Service Sunday 10 am

Choteau United Methodist Church



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Choteau, MT 59422

Church Phone: (406) 466-2641

Church Email: umc@3rivers.net

Website: www.umchoteau.net

[Facebook.com/Choteau UMC](https://www.facebook.com/ChoteauUMC)

Sunday Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Communion traditionally on the first Sunday of each month.

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Simms, MT 59477

(406) 264-5118

Sunday School children & adults: 9:45a.m.

Sunday Worship: 11:00a.m.

<http://www.simmscommunitychurch.com>

Email simmschurch@gmail.com

Fort Shaw Bible Church

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Fort Shaw, MT 59443

Pastor Josh Bidlack: 406-836-2409

<http://fortshawbiblechurch.com/>

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Sunday Service 10:30 am

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(406) 467-2466

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uccffmt@3rivers.net

Motto: God is still speaking

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