

# GREAT FALLS

~~\$1.00~~

# GAZETTE

Friday,  
August 4th 2023

VOL 1, ISSUE 1

FREE PROMOTIONAL ISSUE THANKS TO OUR DISTRIBUTORS AND ADVERTISERS!

## Colt Fire

By Karen McIlwain



Colt Fire on July 24 looking north from southeast part of the fire. Credit: Inciweb

The Colt Fire started 15 miles northwest of Seeley Lake on Monday, July 17, which was reportedly



Firefighter using drip torch during firing operation west of Rainy Lake, Friday, July 28  
Credit: Inciweb

started by lightning. This fire as of July 30th was 6,177 acres in size with 6% containment. Firefighters have been working hard to control the fire, which has increased due to higher temperatures and lower humidity.

Fire crews continued operations to secure the fire's edge along the southeast corner near Forest

Road 646 (Colt/Uhler Road). On the east side of the fire, crews are working to increase the containment percentage by mopping up along Forest Road 646, moving north. Helicopter bucket water drops were used to support burning operations. On the fire's north side along Forest Road 906 (Beaver Creek Road) and other roads, the Heavy Equipment Task Force continued to prepare control lines and mitigate fuels along roadsides in locations that have a high probability of success to contain the fire. South Structure Protection worked on structure assessments and preparation, and North Structure Protection assisted in operations along Forest Road 646 (Colt/Uhler Road) while being prepared to implement structure protection plans if conditions changed.

On the southeast corner of the fire personnel will continue firing operations and secure the line north of the West Fork of the Clearwater River and tie in with Forest Road 646 (Colt/Uhler Road). Crews will continue to hold and mop up along the eastern control lines along Forest Road 646. On the north side, crews will hold and secure the fire along Forest Road 4356 and look for opportunities for fire control line from Colt Lake to Beaver Lake. North and South Structure Protection will assist with burning operations and holding operations on the east and southeast sides of the fire. Structure Group remains ready to respond for structure protection as needed. A night shift of engines and personnel will patrol and monitor fire conditions. Helicopters and airplanes will be used to

*Continued on page 5*

## Great Falls Gazette

By Karen McIlwain

Foxy's Publishing Co (Foxy's) is branching out once again. We are proud to announce we are starting a new paper for the Great Falls area called The Great Falls Gazette which will mean an even larger audience.

Foxy's produces 2

newspapers, The Augusta Breeze and The Great Falls Gazette, which are community based papers, with the belief that news and information should be readily available. We are locally owned with roots in Lewis and Clark, Teton, and Cascade counties.

Foxy's believes in viral distribution which means you are welcome to forward your copy of The Augusta Breeze and The Great Falls Gazette to family and friends. Our papers are advertising supported. Of course because of this we do ask that you visit our advertisers and let them

know that you saw their ad in our publication.

The Augusta Breeze is distributed on Tuesdays and our new Great Falls Gazette will be delivered on Fridays with it's first issue coming out August 4th.

## Eighteen individuals arrested in Bozeman during DCI human trafficking operation

By Montana Attorney General's Office

HELENA – Eighteen individuals were arrested in Bozeman over the weekend during a human trafficking operation conducted by the Montana Department of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) and Bozeman Police Department, Attorney General Austin Knudsen announced today.

The individuals have been charged with 18 counts of patronizing a prostitute, five counts of criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, one count of resisting arrest, and one count of patronizing a victim of sex trafficking for a child victim. They were charged under Montana's new statute, included in House Bill 112, that makes the solicitation of a prostitute a felony charge which Attorney General Knudsen helped write and pass during the 2023 Legislative Session.

"I'm incredibly proud of our DCI human trafficking investigators for their hard work and commitment to stopping this heinous crime in Montana. Working together with our law enforcement partners, we are getting these dangerous predators off the streets," Attorney General Knudsen said. "At the Montana Department of Justice, we are increasing our investigations and prosecutions of human trafficking to send the

message to criminals that it will not be tolerated in Montana."

"We want to use this opportunity to educate the public and reach out to those in need of assistance," Bozeman Police Detective Captain Dana McNeil stated. "If someone is controlling or managing you, abusing you, withholding basic necessities from you in order to control you and your finances, providing you with illegal drugs, or if you feel scared, unsafe, and unable to leave the situation, seek help."

During the operation, which lasted from July 20 to July 22, investigators also seized drugs including cocaine and fentanyl. One of the individuals was also found to be an illegal immigrant who has been deported twice. If convicted, the individual charged with patronizing a victim of sex trafficking faces a sentence of up to 100 years in prison, again because of Montana's new stronger human trafficking laws.

In addition to DCI and Bozeman Police, the Montana State University Special Victims Unit and Gallatin County Sheriff's Office assisted in the investigation.

DCI's Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) was also involved in a law enforcement operation in the Helena area recently

that led to the arrest of four individuals who were soliciting minors online with the intent to engage in sexual activity.

Earlier this month, Attorney General Knudsen launched a new statewide public service announcement to educate Montanans on the issue and how to report it when they suspect they see it available here.

Know the signs. Potential indicators of sex trafficking may include:

Young person that is very hesitant to engage in conversation. Eyes are always downcast, avoiding eye contact, especially with men. Poor physical state...tired, malnourished, or shows signs of physical abuse or torture.

Seems to have trouble responding to what their name is or what location (city or even state) they are in. (Victims' names are often changed, as are their whereabouts. They typically do not stay in one location for long – at times for 24 hours or less).

Wearing clothes that do not fit the climate or the situation such as short shorts or skirts, tank tops, and no jacket in the middle of winter.

Lack of control over money, personal possessions like bags, IDs, or documents.

May also be carrying very few possessions in a plastic bag.

May be accompanied by a dominating person, or someone they seem fearful of. That controlling person may also be someone who does not seem to "fit," such as a much older individual, an individual of a different race, or with behavior seemingly inappropriate with the suspected victim.

Young girl or boy hanging around outside a convenience store, truck stop, casino, or other location. May be approaching different vehicles or men they do not seem to know.

If you believe you witness human trafficking:

If the situation is an emergency, call 911.

Do not intervene if you see suspected trafficker(s). Remain at a safe distance or in your vehicle.

In non-emergency situations, call or text 1-833-406-STOP (1-833-406-7867) OR reach and advocate via live chat at 406stop.com.

When possible, take images with your cellular device of the suspected trafficker(s), victim(s), and vehicle license plate(s).

*Do you have a story you would like to tell? Call, write, email or connect via our web site and we'll help you get the word out!*

## Home Destroyed in Overnight Fire in Great Falls By Karen McIlwain



Photo Credit: Great Falls Fire Rescue

On the evening of July 30th, a trailer house fire at 1436 8th Ave NW was reported. Great Falls Fire Rescue was dispatched and arrived moments later. Engine 2 was the first to arrive on scene and found the trailer to be fully engulfed in fire. The fire was threatening the house to the west, where it caused minor heat damage. From the time the call came into the 911 Center, it took crews 33 minutes to have the fire fully under control. The owner of the home was not present at the time of the fire, and there were no pets in the house at the time of the fire. The trailer is considered to be a total loss, but fortunately there were no injuries. The owner of the home has been notified of Red Cross services. The cause of the fire has been determined to be unattended cooking equipment.

## UPS and Teamsters Reach Deal

By Karen McIlwain

UPS and Teamsters, the union representing approximately 340,000 UPS workers, have reached a tentative agreement on a new five-year labor contract. This contract could potentially avoid a strike, which could have started as soon as next week.

“Together we reached a win-win-win agreement on the issues that are important to Teamsters leadership, our employees, and to UPS and our customers,” said UPS CEO Carol Tomé, in her statement. “This agreement continues to reward UPS’s full- and part-time employees with industry-

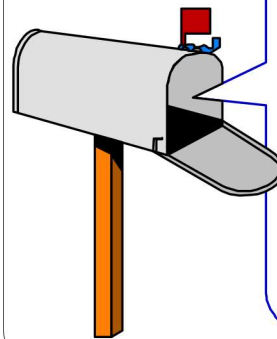
leading pay and benefits while retaining the flexibility we need to stay competitive, serve our customers and keep our business strong.”

Among the issues in the contract negotiations were air conditioning for delivery vans, demands for significantly greater pay, especially for part-time workers, and the closing of pay gaps between two different classes of UPS workers.

The tentative agreement still needs to be ratified to end the threat of a strike, which will take a little more than three weeks.

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## Woman Killed In Bear Encounter

By FWP

WESTYELLOWSTONE – A woman was killed in an encounter with a bear Saturday on the Buttermilk Trail near the town of West Yellowstone.

About 8 a.m. Saturday, game wardens with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks were notified that a hiker had found a woman deceased on the trail, about 8 miles west of West Yellowstone. FWP wardens and bear specialists, along with staff from other agencies, found that the woman had wounds consistent with a bear attack. They also found tracks from an adult grizzly bear and at least one cub near the site. They did not see any bears or signs of a day bed or animal carcass during the investigation.

The Custer Gallatin National Forest implemented an emergency closure of the area as a safety precaution. FWP bear specialists and game wardens notified residents and visitors nearby of the bear activity and the U.S. Forest Service closure. They then began conducting capture operations due to the incident's proximity to

residences, campgrounds and a high-use OHV trail system. No bears have been captured to date. FWP staff also searched the area from an aircraft and did not locate any bears.

The hiker was believed to be alone during the encounter, and no bear spray or firearms were found at the scene. The incident is still under joint investigation by FWP and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

FWP staff express sincere condolences to the family and friends of the hiker who was killed.

FWP thanks the Forest Service, West Yellowstone Police Department, National Park Service, Hebgen Basin Fire, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, and Idaho Fish and Game for their collaboration.

Be bear aware

Montana is bear country. Grizzly bear populations continue to become denser and more widespread in Montana, increasing the likelihood that residents and

recreationists will encounter them in more places each year.

Avoiding conflicts with bears is easier than dealing with such conflicts. Here are some precautions to help residents, recreationists and people who work outdoors avoid negative bear encounters:

Carry bear spray and be prepared to use it immediately.

Travel in groups whenever possible and make noise, which can help alert bears to your presence.

Stay away from animal carcasses, which often attract bears.

Follow food storage orders from the applicable land management agency.

If you encounter a bear, never approach it. Leave the area when it is safe to do so.

Keep garbage, bird feeders, pet food and other attractants put away in a secure building. Keep garbage in a secure building

until the day it is collected. Certified bear-resistant garbage containers are available in many areas.

Never feed wildlife. Bears that become food conditioned lose their natural foraging behavior and pose threats to human safety. It is illegal to feed bears in Montana.

Grizzly bears in the lower 48 states are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Management authority for grizzlies rests with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, working closely in Montana with FWP, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Geological Survey, Wildlife Services and Native American tribes. This collaboration happens through the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.



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Fire (continued from From page 1)

By Karen McIlwain



Firefighters search for hotspots and extinguish them. Credit: Inciweb

drop water and retardant on the fire as needed.

EVACUATIONS AND CLOSURES

The Missoula County Sheriff's Office Evacuation Warning and Order summary:

-Residents on Beaver Creek Road (near the summit) are under an Evacuation Warning.

-Mile marker 31 (Beaver Creek Road at the intersection of Hwy 83) south towards Seeley Lake to mile marker 27, and including residences in Rovero Flats, are under an Evacuation Order.

-Residences beginning at mile marker 27, south end of Rovero Flats, to mile marker 25.5 (the intersection of the West Fork of the Clearwater Road and Hwy 83) are under an Evacuation Warning.

-Residences on the north and south ends of Lake Inez are under an Evacuation Warning. The east side of Lake Inez, along Hwy 83, is not under any Warning or Order.

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-information>

The Lolo and Flathead National Forests have closed several forest roads, areas, and campgrounds near the fire area for public safety. The list of current closures includes:

-Forest Road 906 (closed at Highway 83)

-Rainy Lake Campground access road 4357 (closed at Highway 83)

-Rainy Lake Campground

-Alva Lake Campground access road (closed by gate at Highway 83)

-Alva Lake Campground

-Lakeside Campground access road (closed by gate at Highway 83)

-Lakeside Campground

-Lake Inez Campground

-Forest Road 646 (closed at the junction of FSR 552; FSR 4354; Forest Road 552 (beyond the turn off to west side Lake Inez access

-Forest Road 5407 and 463 closed beyond the West Side snowmobile trailhead (these roads access the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Marshall Wildlife Management Area and Lake Marshall)

-Temporarily closing the Forest System Road loops of the Clearwater (FSR 4370

and 4353) and Richmond (FSR 667 and 720)

TEMPORARY FLIGHT RESTRICTIONS

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.



Hand crew walking to dinner at base camp. Credit: Inciweb.

Post your event or special day announcement. Call, write, email or connect via our web site and we'll help you get the word out!

Puzzle Page

Solutions to this issues puzzles will be in issue # 1-2



Word Search

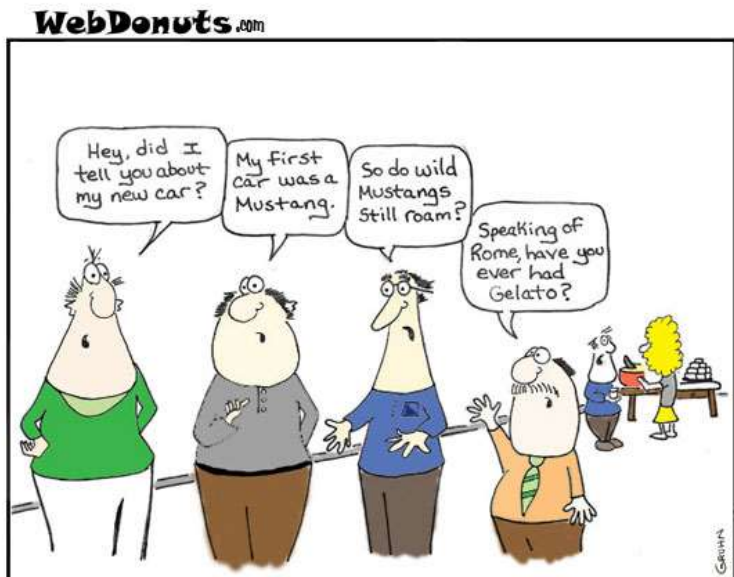
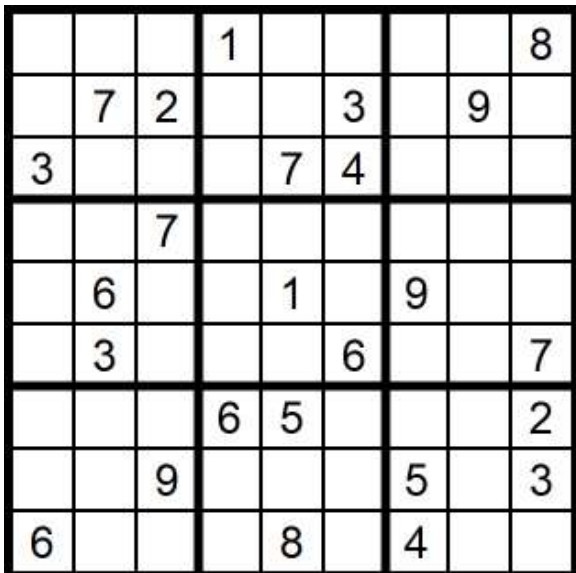
- Black Eagle
- Bootlegger Trail
- Charlie Russell
- Electric City
- Fox Farm
- Giant Springs

- Gibson Flats
- Lewis and Clark
- Paris Gibson
- Rainbow Dam
- Riverview
- Sacagawea
- Skyline
- Woodland Estates



Photo Credit: Foxy's Photography  
Thomas and David Anderson

Do you have a comment about The Great Falls Gazette? Feel free to call us at (406) 952-3021 or email us at [info@augustabreeze.com](mailto:info@augustabreeze.com)



Tangent-Masters International

Events Scheduled at Great Falls Area State Parks By FWP

GREAT FALLS – Several events are scheduled in August at Giant Springs and First Peoples Buffalo Jump state parks near Great Falls. There is no cost to Montana residents to attend the programs. An \$8 entrance fee applies at Montana state parks for all nonresident vehicles.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park Mammoth Hunt

The annual Mammoth Hunt will be held at First Peoples Buffalo Jump park on Saturday and Sunday Aug. 12 – 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This popular event allows visitors to try the atlatl, an ancient form of hunting which pre-dates the bow and arrow. Park staff will be assisted by Jim Ray, who has

more than twenty years of experience with this ancient weapon.

Visitors will also have a chance to shoot primitive archery equipment and throw tomahawks with Billy Maxwell, a cultural anthropologist who will share these traditional skills. George Bryce from Helena will demonstrate flint knapping on Saturday, and Don “Doc” Woerner D.V.M. from Laurel will showcase his unique bison and mammoth bone display on both days of the event.

No advance registration is required for the Mammoth Hunt. For more information please visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/stateparks/first-peoples-buffalo-jump> or call

406-866-2217.

Giant Springs State Park Trivia Night

The Tuesday Trivia Night in the Park series continues from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on August 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Advanced registration is not required for this family friendly event, just bring your team of seven or less along with blankets or chairs to the grassy area in front of the Giant Springs to enjoy a fun trivia competition and compete for prizes. The event is weather dependent, so check for weekly updates on the parks Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=giant%20springs%20heritage%20state%20park>

Giant Springs State Park Junior Ranger Orienteering and Navigation

Kids aged 7 to 12 are invited to Giant Springs State Park on August 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a program on orienteering and navigation. Learn about compasses and how to use them, how to navigate using a map, participate in a treasure hunt, and earn a junior ranger badge. Please wear close-toed shoes and bring sunscreen and water.

Advanced registration is required for this event, and space is limited. Please visit the park or call 406-727-1212 for more information.

-FWP-

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Do you offer a service your neighbors need, a classified ad is an effective, low cost way to get the word out. Call 406-604-0632 and find out how we can help your neighbors find you!

*The Breeze Classified Ads are available to all. Non-commercial ads are free for the first 25 words, then 10¢ per word for additional words. Commercial ads are \$2.50 for the first 25 words, and still only 10¢ thereafter. The Breeze reserves the right to limit or refuse any ad.*

# GREAT FALLS GAZETTE

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Northwest Family Fellowship  
300 23rd Ave NE Great Falls  
(406) 727-6933  
Services 10am Sunday Morning  
6:30pm Wednesday night classes  
[www.nwff.org](http://www.nwff.org)

Solid Rock Bible Church  
751 4th Ave NW  
(406) 453-0895  
Services 10am Sunday  
6:30pm Saturday  
[www.SRBCGF.org](http://www.SRBCGF.org)  
Motto: For people who aren't perfect and don't pretend to be.

Vineyard Christian Fellowship  
1617 6<sup>th</sup> Ave N.  
(406) 452-8448  
Services Sunday 9am and 11am  
[www.vineyardgf.church](http://www.vineyardgf.church)  
[info@vineyardgreatfalls.org](mailto:info@vineyardgreatfalls.org)

Calvary Chapel Great Falls  
101 44<sup>th</sup> st S  
(406) 455-6890  
Services Sunday 10am and  
Wednesday 7pm  
[www.calvarygf.com](http://www.calvarygf.com)

Heritage Baptist Church  
900 52<sup>nd</sup> St N  
(406) 454-2028  
Services: Sunday School 9:45am  
Sunday Service 11am and 6pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30pm  
[heritagebaptistchurchofgf.com](http://heritagebaptistchurchofgf.com)  
Pastors: Dr. S Schearer and Rick Komondor

Central Assembly of God  
2001 Central Ave  
(406) 453-5524  
Services: Sunday 10am  
Wednesday 6:30pm

Big Sky Baptist  
2925 9<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
(406) 453-5079  
Services Sunday School 9:45am  
Sunday Worship 11am  
Wednesday 6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Fairview Baptist Church  
4428 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave N  
(406) 761-3654  
Services: 9:45am Sunday School  
11am & 6pm Sunday Worship  
7pm Wednesday Prayer Meeting  
[www.fairview4u.org](http://www.fairview4u.org)

Temple Baptist Church  
313 18<sup>th</sup> St SW  
(406) 761-3224  
Services: Sunday School 10am  
Sunday Service 11am & 6pm  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7pm  
[www.templebaptistgf.org](http://www.templebaptistgf.org)

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish  
201 44<sup>th</sup> St S  
(406) 452-6491  
Sunday Mass 8:30am & 11am  
Saturday 4:30pm  
[www.holyspiritgf.org](http://www.holyspiritgf.org)

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church & School  
409 13<sup>th</sup> St S  
(406) 452-6464  
School (406) 452-0551  
Mass : Sunday 8:30am, 11am,  
6pm, Saturday 5:30pm  
Monday - Friday 8am

Antioch Church  
4700 10<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
(406) 761-5737  
Services Sunday 10am  
[www.antiochgf.church](http://www.antiochgf.church)

Peace Lutheran Church  
3340 11<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
(406) 761-7343  
Healing Service 10am Sunday  
Deaf Service 8am Sunday  
[www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org](http://www.peacelutherangreatfalls.org)

Faith Lutheran Church  
LCMC  
1300 Ferguson Dr  
(406) 454-1309  
Sunday Service 9:30am  
Celebrate Recovery Thursday evenings  
[www.faithlutherangf.com](http://www.faithlutherangf.com)  
Pastor Mark Neumann

Great Falls Church of Christ  
13006<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
(406) 453-3379  
Sunday Services 8:45am & 11am  
Bible Class Sunday 10am  
[www.greatfallscoc.org](http://www.greatfallscoc.org)

Harvest Springs Community Church  
1001 36<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
(406) 761-3903  
Services Sunday 8:30am, 10am, & 11:30am  
[www.harvestsprings.com](http://www.harvestsprings.com)

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