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Vol. 3, Issue 150 December 16th, 2025

NorthWestern Energy Spreads Holiday Cheer Through Contributions

Community Action

By Karen Anderson: December 14, 2025 - Great Falls, Mt



Great Falls Community Food Bank Executive Director Shaun Tartarka accepts a donation from NorthWestern Energy Community Relations Manager Shane Etwiler. Photo courtesy of NorthWestern Energy

During this holiday season, the Great Falls Northwestern Energy team made an impactful contribution by collecting 700 pounds of food for the Great Falls Community Food Bank. This initiative not only highlighted the team's commitment to community service but also inspired NorthWestern Energy to donate an additional \$700 to help replenish the food bank's shelves, ensuring

that vital resources are available for those in need.

The Great Falls Community Food Bank plays a crucial role in the local community, operating as a distribution center for more than 70 emergency food providers throughout the Cascade County area. This extensive network allows

(Continued on page 7)

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Offers Fish Printing Workshop

Outdoors

By Karen Anderson:
December 13, 2025
Billings, Mt

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks invites the public for a free fish printing workshop on Tuesday, December 23rd, at the Billings FWP office (2300 Lake Elmo Dr.) from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

This workshop will begin with a short presentation on various fish species found in Montana. Participants will learn how to create fish prints on both paper and fabric using replicas of Montana fish. FWP will provide paint and fabric ink for printing, as well as canvas bags for participants to print on. If you

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Photo credit FWP



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is located on page 3

City

Crime Report From December 7th - 13th

Great Falls Police crime data
report from December 7th -
13th includes 41 records.

- 2 - Aggravated Assault
- 6 - All Other Larceny
- 2 - Burglary/Breaking & Entering
- 1 - Credit Card/Automatic Teller
Machine Fraud
- 6 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism
of Property
- 1 - Disorderly Conduct
- 1 - Motor Vehicle Theft
- 1 - Robbery
- 9 - Shoplifting
- 10 - Simple Assault
- 2 - Theft From Motor Vehicle

Source crimemapping.com



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Fun Fact

According to the
U.S. Department of
Agriculture, the top
three states for
growing and selling
Christmas trees are
Oregon, North
Carolina and
Michigan. The most
popular kinds of trees
sold are Fraser firs,
Douglas firs, Balsam
firs, Colorado Blue
Spruce and Scotch
Pine.

Sources: www.nass.usda.gov,
forestry.about.com

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Outdoors

Game Wardens Seek Information on Four Whitetail Bucks Dumped Near Bridger

Press release By FWP: December 11, 2025 - Billings, MT

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks game wardens are seeking the public's help in gathering information on four whitetail bucks that were dumped on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property between Bridger and Belfy in Carbon County. Only the heads were removed from the bucks, and all the meat was wasted.

The bucks, which were ungutted, were discovered in the Cub Creek area on BLM property on Dec. 6. It is believed all bucks were killed near the end of the general hunting season, which concluded on Nov. 30. Three wild turkey carcasses were also found dumped in the area.

In Montana, hunters are prohibited from wasting any part of a game animal that is suitable for food, including the tenderloins, backstraps, and all four quarters. Additionally, it is illegal to dump animal parts.



Photo credit FWP

FWP is urging anyone who saw suspicious activity in the Cub Creek area, or who has information about the potential person or persons responsible, to report the information.

To report information, contact game warden Frank Blundetto at 406-598-8114 or visit tipmont.mt.gov. Those who report information may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

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Opinion / Political

Letter to the Editor

By Rae Grulkowski: December 8, 2025 - Stockett, Mt

Recent events within the Cascade County Republican Central Committee (CCRCC) have raised serious concerns about the leadership practices guiding our organization. Cancelling the monthly Central Committee meeting for November, the Executive Board called an Executive Board meeting in its place on November 12, 2025. In a vote taken by the Executive Board members, the Executive Board attempted to cancel 50% of the regular monthly Central Committee meetings for 2026 and replace them with Executive Board meetings. This, of course, raised great concern by every committeeman and woman who value transparency and grassroots participation.

CCRCC Chairman Eric Hinebauch defended this action vigorously in emails to the Central Committee members, insisting this approach was justified. Yet, on November 29, 2025, the state GOP ruled that such actions are not permitted under either county or state bylaws, responding to a grievance filed by a handful of Central Committee members.

When leadership decisions require direct intervention from the state party to realign us with our own

rules, it signals a serious problem – one that cannot be dismissed as a simple misunderstanding. This discrepancy raises legitimate questions about the Chairs and



Executive Boards understanding of the responsibilities and limits of the roles.

Bylaws are not optional. They exist to prevent exactly this kind of overreach, to ensure that no individual, regardless of position, can limit the involvement of the broader, elected membership. When those rules are bypassed, even temporarily, the trust that holds an organization together begins to erode.

Our party is at its best when leadership empowers members, not sidelines them. We should expect – and demand – a Chair and Executive Board who knows and understands the bylaws

thoroughly, respects them consistently, and works collaboratively rather than independently. Anything less undermines the credibility and effectiveness of our Republican Central Committee.

Central Committee members remained steadfast to organize the December 10 Central Committee meeting in spite of the Boards' resistance. We are grateful to have had the state GOP expeditiously provide the Record of Decision timely and effectively. Item #3 under "Findings" reads,

"The County Executive Committee is subservient to the County Central Committee. It must operate within CCRCC Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order."

As Republicans, we pride ourselves on accountability and adherence to the rule of law. Let's use this incident to motivate us to build a stronger, more transparent and more participatory Central Committee where members have assurance that their rights and roles are being respected. Our local Republicans deserve leadership that not only respects the bylaws but also empowers members and protects the integrity of the process.

Opinion / political pieces are printed verbatim, in their entirety, and are not fact checked.

We reserve the right to not run an opinion or political piece that we find objectionable.

If you have an opinion or political piece you would like to share please contact

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Living

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

RATIONALE OF A SAFETY PLAY

North dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 10 7 6 3

♥ A 5

♦ A 8 4

♣ A K Q J

WEST

♠ A

♥ K Q 10 2

♦ J 7 6 3

♣ 8 5 4 2

EAST

♠ Q J 9

♥ J 9 7 4

♦ Q 9 5 2

♣ 9 6

SOUTH

♠ K 8 5 4 2

♥ 8 6 3

♦ K 10

♣ 10 7 3

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass

4 ♠

Opening lead — king of hearts.

Safety plays come in so many different guises and occur in such a variety of circumstances that there is little to be gained by trying to memorize all the different possibilities. It is far better to recognize the need for a safety play and take the appropriate steps as each new situation arises.

Consider this deal where declarer takes the opening heart lead with the ace and returns a low spade from dummy, on which East produces the nine. Which card should South play?

It can be seen that if he plays the king, he goes down, losing three trump

tricks and a heart. However, the king is the wrong play in this particular deal. South should play low, and if he does, he makes the contract.

The recommended play is not based on a peek at the East-West hands, but rather because it simply is the right play. The contract is virtually certain to make if declarer does not lose three trump tricks, so all his efforts should be directed toward dealing with that possibility.

After the nine appears, it is clear that the contract has no chance if East has all four trumps or if West has the A-Q-J. Both of these possibilities are therefore dismissed from consideration, leaving only the cases where the spades are divided 2-2 or where East has three of them, including the nine.

If the spades are 2-2, East must have A-9, Q-9 or J-9. South can well afford to duck the nine in all three cases, though it is true that by playing the king he could gain a 30-point trick in the first case.

If the spades are 3-1, East might have A-Q-9, A-J-9 or Q-J-9. Again, South can afford to duck the nine in all three cases, but playing the king would cost the contract in the third case.

Ducking the nine thus never loses the contract and sometimes makes it, so it is therefore the right play.

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Bus Tek Tip – Don't be Ransomware!

By Robert Hood, Founder and CEO SpotLink: December 9, 2025 - Great Falls, Mt



Robert Hood. Photo courtesy of Robert Hood

Ransomware is the scourge of the modern malware, with about \$1 billion in U.S. payments in 2024. It is essentially someone locking you out of your own data until you pay them a ransom. Paying the ransom is no guarantee that you will get your data back. About 11% of businesses that pay the ransom don't get a decryption key that will work. Even with the key, 92% don't get all their data back.

Over the last few years, cyber criminals have shifted from targeting larger companies to targeting small businesses (because their cybersecurity is usually laxer), with the median ransom payment being about \$140K. These attacks happen all the time. A recent study indicated that 12% of all small businesses have been hit with a ransomware attack. Great Falls is not exempt. A quick Google search will show

many successful ransomware attacks in the last few years, and those are only the businesses that reported them - most keep silent.

So how do you keep from becoming a victim? Essentially, you need to be sure you don't let the bad guys get access to your computers.

Don't fall for a phishing scam (see my article last month). A phishing attack with a link that will download malware is one of the main ways bad guys get in.

Have a secure firewall and keep it updated. If you have a firewall with older software, it may have vulnerabilities that let cyber criminals access your computers.

Keep your computers updated. Just as an outdated firewall can let bad guys in, so can a computer that isn't updated or running older software.

Run modern Endpoint Protection with EDR (enhanced detection and

response) on your business computers. Depending on the manufacturer of the software and the attack, Endpoint Protection may shut down a ransomware attack when it sees it happening. Some can even roll back the changes even after a ransomware attack starts.

If keeping ransomware out is a high priority for you, then running an application locking program can stop Ransomware in its tracks by only letting approved software execute. If ransomware can't run, it can't hurt you.

Don't be a statistic that is \$140K poorer. By protecting yourself and being vigilant, the bad guy will see you're too much trouble, and move on to the many other easier targets that exist on the internet.

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Free Family Event!

NorthWestern Energy Spreads Holiday Cheer (Continued from page 1)



Photo courtesy of NorthWestern Energy

the food bank to serve thousands of individuals and families who face food insecurity, providing them with essential nourishment during challenging times.

In addition to their support for the food bank, NorthWestern Energy also recognized the importance of education in fostering long-term stability and self-sufficiency within the community. The company recently made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the Young

Parents' Education Center in Great Falls. This remarkable organization aims to empower teenage and young adult students who are pregnant or parenting by giving them access to educational opportunities that can help them achieve independence. The center promotes positive parenting practices, ensuring that babies have the support they need to reach their fullest potential, thereby creating a brighter future for both parents and children.



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Great Falls, Mt

Fish Printing Workshop

(Continued from page 1)

would like to print on identifying Montana's your own clothing, fish species and please bring cotton understanding their articles to the workshop. anatomy.

Fish printing, also known as gyoaku, is a traditional Japanese art form developed by fishermen to document their notable catches. FWP uses gyoaku, typically with rubber replica fish instead of real specimens, in its educational programs to teach attendees about

Join in the fun and create a unique gift for that fish enthusiast in your life. If you can't make the workshop but are still interested in learning how to fish print, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=sddH53ty5Kw for the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks video tutorial on fish printing.

Obituaries

Obituary of Shirlee Jacobsen

Shirlee was born July 3, 1940, three minutes behind her twin sister, Sharen. She came into this world to meet her mom, Leila and dad, Turrell Pixton; big brother, Ferris Turrell Pixton; and sister, Joan Pixton.

Her mother did not know that she was having twins, so she only had enough clothes for one. Thank goodness for the folks in the small community of Kimble, Idaho, who got together and made some clothes so she would not have to go naked.

Her mom put both little ones in one crib. Sharen at one end and Shirlee at the other end. When they got old enough to move around her mother said that Shirlee would drink her bottle and then crawl down to Sharen and take her bottle away from her. When Sharen started to cry her mom would know what was going on.

Shirlee remembered that while growing up her twin sister and herself did everything together—went everywhere together, dressed alike, and protected each other. They did argue on occasion and Sharen, who has always been a clean freak, would make only her half of the bed, and chew Shirlee out if her side was not neat like Sharen's. The way Shirlee got back at her was to mess up her perfect color coordinated alphabetized dresser drawers, sometimes she even dumped them on the floor and then ran like heck.

When they were three years old, their parents bought a house in Firth, Idaho. She remembered that house because it had swinging doors from the kitchen, into her parents' bedroom, on to the living room, then back into the kitchen. The overly energetic twins would run around the house and through the swinging doors for hours. Her

dad finally got rid of the doors, but not before she choked on some peanuts with one lodging into her lungs. This was on Christmas Eve and of course Sharen was chasing her around and around.



Their antics landed Shirlee in the hospital. By the next morning the peanut was out and after some time in recovery her mom took her home. Her aunt had brought her a big shiny apple to eat when she got home but by that time Sharen had eaten it. The first day of school, Sharen slid down a slippery slide before school even started and landed in a mud puddle. She looked like a mud ball. The principal knew enough about the twins to call their mother who took them both home, bathed Sharen, donned them both with clean clothes, tied their hair up in a bandana (so they would be alike), and drove them back to school.

Her brother Ferris went into the Navy when she was really young so she didn't have a lot of memories about him until he came home.

Joan who was three years older than Shirlee and Sharen was the greatest sister ever. She always wanted to sleep with her young

sisters even when she became a teenager. At bedtime she would often get cold and crawl in between them to get warm. She would read them stories from a storybook Grandma Pixton gave her for her birthday. They loved to hear them over and over.

Shirlee graduated from Firth High School in her hometown of Firth, Idaho. She was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints fulfilling many callings, her most satisfying as a steadfast visiting teacher with Vicki Janetski and her calling as Relief Society President in the 4th Ward.

She married her high school sweetheart, Odell Jacobsen August 29, 1958, in the Idaho Falls, Idaho temple. Theirs was a marriage filled with love and devotion to each other for over 67 years. As in her childhood she was dressed like her twin sister, with matching wedding dresses. Their wedding was a double wedding with Sharen and Neil Crofts. A reception and dance was held in the Basalt Ward. Those who attended brought two of the same gifts, one for each couple.

Shirlee and Odell were blessed with 4 beautiful children, Terry, Leniece, Georgia, and Stacy. Shirlee loved being their mother and always knew that God's calling as such was her greatest calling.

She was an industrious person with high work ethics. After her high school days, she worked for Bell Telephone as a switchboard operator. Since that early start she held several related jobs with her most recent being admissions supervisor at the old Columbus Hospital and the new Benefis Hospital. Of all the jobs she had, she always placed her home job as housewife and mother the greatest of all, but not necessarily the easiest.

(Continued on page 9)

Obituary of Shirlee Jacobsen

(Continued from page 8)

Shirlee's life has not always been a bowl of cherries. Since the peanut incident she has had 4 C Sections, a Hysterectomy, a bilateral appendectomy, two cataract eye surgeries, a stroke on valentine's day in 1999 that left her speechless, a pacemaker implant in 2008, a cardio version in 2009, left carotid artery surgery, a heart catheter, a heart catheter with 2 stents in 2016, a pacemaker replacement in 2017, a trans aorta heart valve replacement Jan. 3, 2023 and more recently, an overnight stay at St. James Hospital in Butte for passing out and breaking her ankle, 2 weeks in the cardiovascular unit at Benefis Hospital, then 18 days at

Grandview rehab center and lastly, 125 days under Hospice Home care. The number of doctor visits cannot be counted. The family tells you of these many health issues that she endured, not to seek your sympathy, but to let you know how strong-minded she was. Her character, faith, and love were equally strong.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Turrell and Leila; brother, Ferris; sister, Sharen; brother-in-law, Bill Mecham; son-in-law, Steve Thrush; daughters, Leniece and Georgia.

Sadly, she passed away from natural causes December 5, 2025. She is survived by her loving husband, Odell; son, Terry (Jean); daughters, Stacy Thrush and Mary

Jacobsen; sister, Joan Pixton; grandson, Craig (Maritza); and granddaughters, Samantha, Katy, and Allison.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at the Great Falls Stake Center, Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. A private family burial will occur later at the Firth Cemetery in Firth, ID.

The family would like to thank the staff at Grandview and Benefis Hospice nurse Kim for their kind care and consideration for Shirlee in her last days. Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.OConnorFuneralHome.com.

O'Connor



Obituary of Gladys Paradas Martinez

Gladys Mireya Paradas Martinez, born November 22, 1933, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. A strong, vivacious and friendly woman survived by her three children, Gary (Khadija), Martha (Milton) and Victor (Julissa), passed in the peace of our Lord on December 10, 2025.

She was a loving mother to her three children, grandmother, of seven, Heidi (Alberro), Victor Julio (Ana), Gary Ernesto (Margaret), Jamila, Gabriela, Victor Rafael and Judith; and great-grandmother, of three girls that she adored, Diana Nicol, Alicia and Emilia.

Lovingly called Mamigladys by her grandchildren, she was well loved by everyone around her. Her friends and neighbors from her natal Zona Colonial in Santo

Domingo and extended family back home will miss her deeply.

She enjoyed cooking, playing cards and dominoes, dancing, and slot machines. She was faithful to her Christian upbringing and was called home in peace, accompanied by Psalms 23 and 71.

Condolences for the family may be left online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com.

Schnider

Obituary and death notices are a difficult fact of life. They are a reminder of those we have loved and lost. The Great Falls Gazette does not require payment for submission of local obituaries or death notices, however, you are welcome to donate to our many programs to help people in our community to receive newspapers that they can enjoy.

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Obituary of Kay Murphy Walters

Kay Murphy Walters, aged 87, of Great Falls, MT left this life December 5, 2025. She passed after spending a short time in the hospital after a fall.

Kay was born June 30, 1938, and spent her early childhood in Butte, America as she (and many others) fondly refer to that great city. She spent her formative years in Anaconda, MT, graduating from Anaconda Central Catholic High School. Upon graduation she moved to Helena, MT to attend Carroll College, receiving a B.A. in English. She met the love of her life, and future husband, Edward Walters, while attending Carroll College.



She began her early teaching career in Salt Lake City, then Seattle, eventually moving to Great Falls, MT where she spent the majority of her career. She taught and worked at the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, both in

teaching and later in a counseling role (after earning an M. ED degree from Montana State University while working and raising four sons). She loved her work there and loved the many friends she made in the Deaf Community. She finished her career after 25 years at the Deaf and Blind school but remained active as an interpreter for many at mass, school, and various community events. She eventually continued her service to others teaching sign language classes (both formally and informally).

She loved her church, and the close friends she had both affiliated with the church, and outside that community. In her faith, she ultimately became a Secular Franciscan, caring for its goals of peace, love, and service to marginalized communities. She truly enjoyed the fellowship she shared with her friends praying the Rosary. "Miss Kay" as many of her younger friends referred to her, taught students from Holy Spirit School, and children from Church sign language. This included signing the Anima Christi at mass. Seeing and being part of this brought great joy to her life.

She had a very rewarding, and active social life, and was thankful for her many dear friends. She had many hobbies, interests and loves. She enjoyed quilting (and sharing her creations), baking, needle work, and her regular meals with friends. She was an avid fan of any event her grandchildren were involved in. Being a supportive grandmother was of her most cherished roles. She was a great reader, enjoying many genres. She enjoyed anything that was chocolate, particularly ice cream (although any ice cream was likely

good in her view). She rarely missed watching Jeopardy. She liked Christmas and Christmas music, especially Mannheim Steamroller, and was able to attend their Great Falls concert the night before she fell. She loved spending time with many students, even after retirement. She took special joy when former students contacted her to update her on their lives. She particularly enjoyed remaining active in young people's lives and had the great fortune to be able to do this through involvement in various community activities.

She was survived by her sons; Thomas (Morgan DO) Walters DVM of Elbert, CO, Michael (Miriam Pharm. D.) Walters MD, of Great Falls, MT, Patrick (Vanda) Walters, Great Falls, MT and David Walters, Prescott Valley, AZ. She was also survived by Kary Walters DVM; grandchildren, Capt. Levi, Wyatt, Ella, River, as well as other grandchild on the way.

She is preceded in Death by her parents; husband, Edward Walters; brothers, John and Edward Murphy, as well as her daughter-in-law, Lori (David) Walters.

Services are December 17, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Great Falls, MT.

Reception luncheon will follow at the Church Hall. Friends are encouraged if they'd like to bring a quilt that Kay made to display at the reception.

Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.SchniderFuneralHome.com


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STICKELERS (sic)

by Terry Stickels

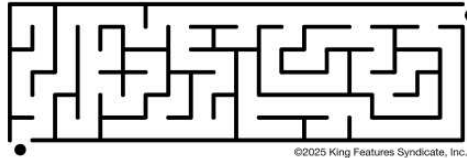
Molly is four times as old as Milly.
Twenty years from now, Molly will
only be twice as old as Milly.

How old are they now?

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Puzzle answers can
be found on the next
page.

Kids' Maze



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MINI SUDOKU

1			3	
	3			
		6		
4			1	
			4	
	2			6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way
that each row across, each column down and
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at the figures given at the bottom
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diagram by following the arith-
metic signs in the order they are
given (that is, from left to right
and top to bottom). Use only the
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complete its blank squares and
use each of the nine numbers
only once.

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-		+		+				
	+		÷		= 1			
-		÷		÷				
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Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Stickelers Answer

Molly is 40 and Milly is 10.

Go Figure!

answers

6	+	7	×	3	= 39
-		+		+	
1	+	8	÷	9	= 1
-		÷		÷	
4	+	5	+	2	= 11
=		=		=	
1		3		6	

MINI SUDOKU

Answer

1	4	2	6	3	5
6	3	5	2	4	1
2	1	6	3	5	4
4	5	3	1	6	2
5	6	1	4	2	3
3	2	4	5	1	6

SCRAMBLERS

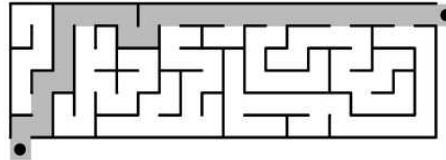
solution

1. Rocket;
2. Devour;
3. Brain;
4. Escort

Today's Word

BREAK

Kids' Maze Solution



Business and Networking Coach



- Media Strategies
- Business Growth
- Business Start-up
- Next Step Leadership
- Video Production
- Commercials
- Interviews
- On-Line courses
- 90 Day Growth System



Schedule a meeting

406.899.0404

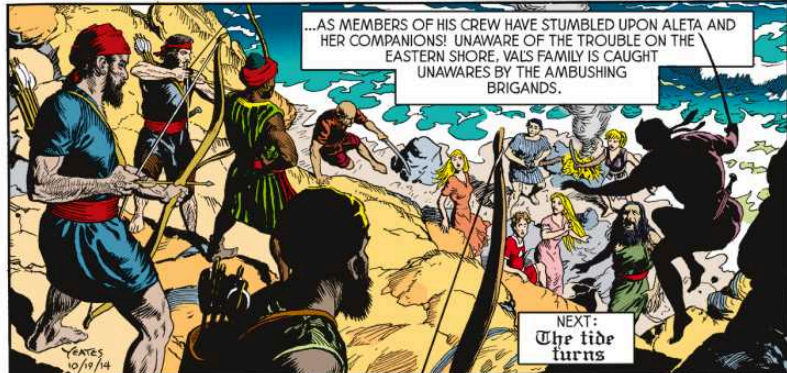
jayson@jaysonolthoff.com
<https://jaysonolthoff.com>



... AND YOUR OFF-SHORE NORSE ALLIES CANNOT STAY ONCE THEIR WATER RUNS OUT. WE WILL NOT LET THEM LAND...



"... SO LET US BE SENSIBLE. IF YOU ALLOW US TO REPAIR OUR SHIP, WE WILL TAKE YOU OFF THIS DREADFUL PLACE. WE CAN DIVIDE UP THE WOMEN LATER." SO ENDS THE PALAVER, WITH VAL HARD-PRESSED TO RESTRAIN ZULFA.



Celebrations

Celebrations is a great way to say "Happy Birthday", "Happy Anniversary", "Congratulations", or other positive messages to share with the whole city. It's a great way to be positive in a challenging world; it's fun, and it's FREE!

You can even include a small (tastefully fun) photo! Just email info@gfgazette.com or call 406 952-3021, and we'll get the positive word out.

No Legal notices were submitted for this issue. Special rates are available for public notices and name change notices which include the affidavit. For more information, please call us at (406) 604-8929.



The Great Falls Gazette now proudly serves Belt, Centerville, Stockett, Vaughn, Sun Prairie, Bootlegger, and many other local areas. Thank you for your continued support

The Great Falls Gazette strives to recycle. If you would like to help reduce waste, you can save your newspaper bags when you receive your paper, and place them on your door to be picked up at your next delivery.



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Ads run all week long in Foxys Publishing Papers.

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Clean out the closets and get some money for it!

Call (406) 604-8929 and ask for Ad Sales for more information!



GF
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*"I like it
local!"*

News, Events, and stories focused on
North Central Montana. Great Falls
Gazette is committed to our home!

Civilized letters to the editor may be sent to letters@gfgazette.com or mailed to Letter To The Editor, 1601 2nd Ave N, Suite 345, Great Falls, MT 59401. Letters must include name (we print first name, last initial), hometown, and either a phone number or email address. Letters that attack others, are patently untrue, or are of a harmful nature WILL be rejected!



Great gifts for pets and owners



Do you have a friend who owns pets, or a pet of your own that you'd like to join in the holiday cheer this Christmas? There are more products than ever for pets -- the challenge is finding the perfect gift from the many choices available. Here are a few items that have impressed me recently, and may make a perfect gift for the dog, cat or pet owner in your life.

Heated dog/cat bed: For older dogs and cats, a heated pad or bed provides welcome comfort for their aching joints, especially in winter.

Sturdy chew toys: Kong ruled the "indestructible" chew toy market for quite a while, but sturdy, creative chew toys are available from other brands as well. Know the size of the dog (toy, small, medium, large) before buying so you get the appropriate-sized toy for their jaws.

Scratch pads: Vertical or horizontal scratch pads for cats help them maintain their claws and relieve boredom -- without destroying furniture.

Cat tree: Help cats safely reach a higher plane of existence ... so they can stare out the window. Cat trees fight boredom and most

include attached toys and scratch pads, creating an all-in-one activity center.

Window perch: Need to save space? Try a window perch or hammock instead of a cat tree. Most mount on the sill, so cats can lounge while staring at the fauna outside.

Gift cards: If you're not sure what a pet owner needs, then a gift card to an online or brick-and-mortar pet supply store is the way to go.

If you're short on cash but want to give a thoughtful gift: Offer to walk dogs or pet-sit. Help elderly pet owners care for their pets. Or, volunteer at a local shelter.

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.
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LOCAL WEATHER FOR GREAT FALLS

NWS Forecast for: Cascade County below 5000ft
Issued by: National Weather Service Great Falls, MT
Last Update: [2:12 pm MST Dec 14, 2025]

Tuesday Sunny, with a high near 53. Breezy, with a west southwest wind 22 to 29 mph, with gusts as high as 47 mph.

Tuesday Night A 20 percent chance of rain after 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 41. Breezy, with a southwest wind 17 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 36 mph.

Wednesday Rain likely before 8am, then rain and snow likely between 8am and 2pm, then a chance of snow after 2pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 50. Windy, with a west wind 24 to 29 mph increasing to 31 to 36 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 55 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Wednesday Night A slight chance of snow before 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around 17. Southwest wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to 9 to 14 mph in the evening. Winds could gust as high as 34 mph.

Thursday Partly sunny, with a high near 42.

Thursday Night A chance of snow before 8pm, then a chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.

Friday A chance of rain and snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 49.

Friday Night A slight chance of snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Keep an eye on the weather all week long, you can get a monthly subscription to Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday of the Gazette for about the price of three large lattes!

Do you like The Great Falls Gazette? We would love to hear your opinions. Email us at feedback@gfgazette.com or leave a message on our feedback hotline at (406) 952-3021.



The Weapons Collectors Society of Montana, District 1, is offering grant funding to a non-profit or other group that supports youth shooting activities. If you know of an organization that could benefit from this funding, please contact Sandra at weaponscollectorsmt@gmail.com or call 406-836-7081. A grant requires an application to be considered for funding.

CrimeStoppers Most Wanted

Great Falls/Cascade County Crimestoppers, the Great Falls Police Department, and the Cascade County Sheriff's Office make every effort to keep the Most Wanted list current. We cannot guarantee the currency of the information. If you have reason to believe that any of the information contained on the list is inaccurate, call the Cascade County Sheriff's Office at (406) 454-6820 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

If you have any information to report, please call (406) 727-8477 (TIPS) or go to P3TIPS.COM (For a situation in progress, call 911). All callers remain anonymous and a reward can be paid for tips leading to an arrest. Help keep our community safe by sharing this information.



Wing-Skjold, Valene NMN: 41 yoa, Native American female, 5'3", 160#, brown eyes, black hair, wanted on: violation of bail conditions on failure to register as a sexual or violent offender, felony. Total bond \$15,000.



Garrison, Jason William: 48 yoa, white male, 6'3", 200#, blue eyes, brown hair, wanted on: criminal possession of dangerous drugs, felony, tampering with or fabricating physical evidence, felony, and aggravated driving under the influence (1st offense), misdemeanor. Total bond \$10,000.

The Misadventures of Tipper and Bandit



*Tipper and Bandit go to the ATM
To get money for dinner.*

*A Thief watching the ATM
Steals their money!!!*

*Don't let Thieves ruin your day!
Be careful at the ATM*

Created by Patricia Hahn Schlaeger 12-2025.

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