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*Vol. 4, Issue 25 February 5th, 2026*

## Fundraiser Dinner and Auction for Baby Antonio

**Community Action**

*By Karen Anderson: February 4, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt*



*Photo credit Mitchellson Photography*

Parents Taylor Michaelson and Mark LaPier are preparing to welcome their son, baby Antonio, who has been diagnosed with a rare and serious congenital heart defect known as double inlet left ventricle (DILV). Due to this diagnosis, the family has been informed that they must relocate to Seattle within the next 6-8 weeks so Antonio can receive the specialized, (Continued on page 2)

## Winners of FWP's Hunting Dog Photo Contest Announced

**Outdoors**

*By Karen Anderson: February 4, 2026 - Helena, Mt*

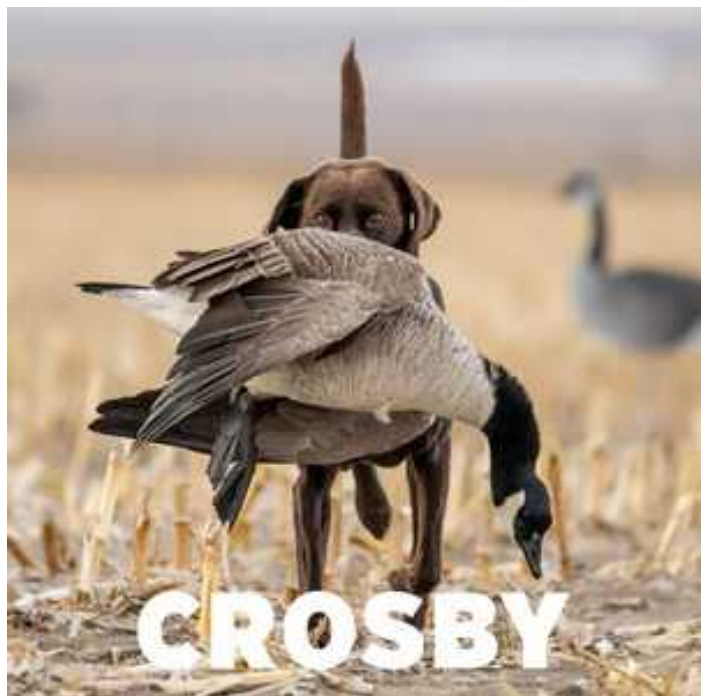
Nearly 500 photos were submitted for the FWP Hunting Dog Photo Contest. After the staff selected 20 finalists, they invited their social media followers to vote for their favorite photo.

Crosby is 6 years old and began hunting with Clingan when he was 9 months old. "He's hunted in more states and has retrieved more species of birds than most guys ever will," Clingan stated in a press release.

Mike Clingan's photo of his chocolate Lab, Crosby, received 1,000 votes, while Adam Hunt's photo of his wirehaired pointing griffon, Crockett, received almost 850 votes. Clingan and Crosby reside in Toston, and Hunt and Crockett live near Great Falls.

Crosby's extensive hunting adventures are the result of accompanying Clingan on assignments for his outdoor photography business, Montana Outdoor Imagery. Clingan stated that Crosby has

*(Continued on page 2)*



*Photo courtesy of FWP*



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# Great Falls Gazette®

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Editor: Karen Anderson  
Publisher: Andy Anderson

Subscription coupon is located on page 3

## Outdoors

### Hunting Dog Photo Contest (Continued from page 1)

graced the pages and covers of numerous magazines.

Clingan captured this particular photo during a hunt on Christmas Eve morning. "He's truly living the best life a Labrador retriever could ever have," Clingan remarked. "He's a high-energy dog but also well-behaved and loves to hunt as much as I do."

Crockett was a candidate for president in 2024, with the campaign slogan, "A pheasant in every pot."

"We had banners and yard signs all over the county, and lots of people voted for him," Hunt stated in the release. Crockett is 8 years old and has been hunting since he was a puppy. He is trained for both upland game and waterfowl. Additionally, he sniffs out elk

sheds in the spring, hikes with his family and goat siblings, and assists Hunt in placing beaver traps.

"I let Crockett out on different beaver huts, and he will not only tell me if it's a hot hut, but exactly which runs the beavers are using and picks where I should put my traps," Hunt explained. "No joke. He is currently batting a thousand on picking hot runs."

This photo was taken a few years ago during a river hunt on one of the last days before the river froze. "It was brutally cold, and the water was icing up, but no amount of cold or ice can stop him," Hunt stated. "By the time we got all our gear back to the truck, Crockett had turned into a 'griff-cicle,' but he was still hot and ready to keep hunting."



Photo courtesy of FWP

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# Community Action

## Fundraiser Dinner and Auction for Baby Antonio (Continued from page 1)

life-saving heart surgery and medical care he will need shortly after birth.

This sudden transition brings significant financial strain, including costs for travel, relocation, lodging, meals, child care for their other children—Paisley (4 years old), Lilyanna (3 years old), and Adaline (9 months old)—and extended time away from work.

The community is coming together to host a fundraising dinner and silent auction to support the family. The fundraising benefit for baby Antonio will be held on February 28th from 4-8 PM at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, located at 1509 9th St S in Great Falls.

Dinner sponsors are being sought to help offset food and event costs, as well as donations for the silent and live auctions. All donated items will be picked up by February 18th. Every contribution will help alleviate the financial burden on this family. All sponsors and donating businesses will be recognized and acknowledged at the event.

If you would like to help by becoming a sponsor or donating items, please contact Destany Alvarado (Fundraiser Coordinator) at 406-468-5020 or Jamie St. Marks at 406-231-8474.



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## Colonel Paul's Corner - No More Aces

By Paul Warrick: January 29, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



Photo courtesy of Paul Warrick

The word "Ace" came into popular use in the English language in the 18th century. The meaning then and now is "the best at something". The expert at any given undertaking. It is the highest ranking card in a deck of playing cards. Strangely enough, until the early 16th century the King was the highest card in the deck.

The first use of the word Ace in aviation was in French newspapers in WWI. The French used the word to designate a heroic pilot who had shot down five or more enemy airplanes. We still use that standard today. Prior to U.S. entry into WWI, over 200 American pilots went to the war in Europe to fly for the English and French. Some claimed to be Canadians to make their enlistment easier.

Most American pilots were scattered among British and French units. The French also created an all-American unit, the Lafayette Escadrille, composed of 38 American pilots. The most famous was Eddie Rickenbacker who scored 26 victories to become America's "Ace of Aces". History's first American Ace is a matter of dispute. The first American pilot to shoot down five aircraft was Gervais Raoul Lufbery who ended up with 17 kills. Because Lufbery was flying with a foreign unit, many historians claim Paul Baer to be the first as he was flying in an

American unit after the U.S. entered the war. The top Ace in WWI is not in dispute. Manfred Von Richthofen, also known as The Red Baron, shot down 80 aircraft before he was killed in 1918.

World War II once again saw American adventurers flying in foreign air forces before America entered the war. Almost 250 Americans went to England to fly in three "Eagle Squadrons". Seventy eight would be killed before the Eagle Squadrons were absorbed into the U.S. Army's 8th Air Force in September, 1942. One hundred American pilots and 200 ground crew members went to fly P-40s for the Chinese Air Force. They were the famous "Flying Tigers". Twenty of them became Aces, destroying almost 300 Japanese aircraft before the unit was made part of the U.S. Army in July, 1942. The Soviet Air Force accepted no foreigners.

The massive U.S. Army Air Force flying in every theater of war produced more than 1200 Aces in World War II. The top American Ace was Richard Bong who flew the twin-engine P-38 fighter in the Pacific while shooting down 40 Japanese aircraft. World War II also produced history's top ace. He was the German pilot, Erich Hartmann, who shot down an incredible 352 enemy aircraft. He counted 345 Soviet aircraft on the Eastern front and seven American aircraft in Western Europe.

Korea produced six American Aces including James Jabara, our first Jet Ace flying the F-86 Sabre Jet. The war in Vietnam produced two Aces among our pilots, Steve Ritchie of the Air Force and Randy Cunningham of the Navy, both flying F-4s. The North Vietnamese had 18 Aces flying the Mig 17 and the Mig 21. There has been no Ace since Vietnam. Cunningham later served a prison sentence for accepting bribes while a member of congress.

Richard Bong and Erich Hartmann will forever hold their records. The reason is simple. Air warfare has changed. Although our F-22, F-35, and Super Hornet are light years ahead of past fighter planes and our pilots are the most skilled in history, they will never have the opportunity to shoot down five enemy aircraft. Massive air battles have not happened since WWII. The weapon of choice today is the unmanned air vehicle. Drones and missiles. We have thus far produced more than 9000 Tomahawk cruise missiles and used almost 3000. They travel up to 1500 miles to deliver a 1000 lb high explosive warhead within 30 feet of the target. No pilots are at risk. The downside is they cost over \$2 million each to build.

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## Big Sky Duplicate Bridge Club Results for the Week of January 26-31

By George Geise: February 1, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



The Big Sky Duplicate Bridge Club Unit 408 hosts several events each week at its facility located at 528 Smelter Ave NE, Suite 7, usually on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon at 12:30. The club welcomes new players, and a good contact phone number is 899-8597. We also have a Facebook page.

Results from last week follow:

Monday, January 26. 1. Aniya Masters and Shari Kohoutek; 2. George Geise and Diane Volk; 3. Jack Sherick and Jeanne Peterson; 4. Paul Holland and Genie Goodman; 5/6 (tie) Ray Quigley and Ron Halvorson, and Donna Johnson and Rita Reynolds.

Wednesday, January 28. 1. George Geise and Jeanne Peterson; 2. Bill Miller and Ginger Christensen; 3. Ray Quigley and Rita Reynolds; 4. Barbara Flaherty and Bev Flowers.

Friday, January 30. North-South, 1. Jenifer Hansen and Barbara Flaherty; 2. Ray Quigley and Bill Miller; 3. Linda Lee and Helen Maguire. East-West, 1. Jack Sherick and Sonja Bragstad; 2. Pat Flaherty and Donna Hoff; 3. Jerry and Patty Kain.

Saturday, January 31. 1. Jack Sherick and Deborah Hanson; 2. Ginger Christensen and Terri Nelson; 3. Shari Kohoutek and Janet Wenger.

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## Big Sky Bridge Club Offers Bridge Class

By Karen Anderson: February 4, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt

Bridge is a captivating card game that not only challenges your mental acuity but also fosters strategic thinking and helps you make new friends.

The Big Sky Bridge Club in Great Falls is excited to announce an introductory bridge class designed specifically for beginners. This class is open to everyone, regardless of whether you have any previous experience with bridge or card games.



Photo credit Anita Masters

The course will span seven weeks, running from February 14th to April 4th. Please be aware that there will be no class held on March 21st. Each class session will last approximately 1.5 hours and will start promptly at 10 AM every Saturday.

The introductory class is offered at no cost, apart from the purchase of a textbook, which provides valuable resources and insights into the game.

For more information, please contact The Big Sky Bridge Club at 528 Smelter Ave. NE, Suite 7, or call Anita at 406-231-2249 or Donna at 406-899-8597, and let them know you found them in The Great Falls Gazette.



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# 1st Friday Art Walk

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Feb 6th, 2026  
5:00pm to  
8:00pm

# Obituaries

## Obituary of Maryellen Gutacker

Maryellen Gutacker passed away peacefully on January 29, 2026 after suffering a stroke. Maryellen was born in Rochester, New York, to Andrew and Marianne Gutacker on February 18, 1952.



Maryellen was a devoted lover of people, especially children and the elderly, and she carried a deep compassion that touched everyone

who knew her. She treasured her family above all else and hoped they would remember her with forgiveness and love. Maryellen strove every day to be a kind and good person, never knowingly causing harm, and always seeking to uplift those around her.

Maryellen held a Bachelors and Masters degree in Fine Arts. She taught art for nearly half a century and dedicated herself to teaching, creating, and celebrating the arts. She found joy in drawing, painting, decorating, and sewing, pouring her heart into every piece she made. Though she loved music dearly, she often joked about her inability to learn the flute, piano, alto saxophone, or harmonica—and she never claimed to be able to sing. Still, she held music close to her spirit.

Maryellen lived her life in service to God, offering encouragement to those who were discouraged, lonely, or in need of support. Throughout her years, she was blessed with many wonderful friendships. Among her dearest companions were her brothers and sisters, her children and

grandchildren, and countless others who shared life's journey with her.

She considered her life full, rich, and deeply meaningful. To Maryellen, moving on to the next life was a beautiful gift—another step in a journey grounded in love, faith, creativity, and connection.

She is survived by her two children, David W. (Kimberly) Bradstreet and Rebekah Giles; David F. Bradstreet, father of David and Rebekah; grandchildren Joe, Austin, Adalie, Olivia, Porter, Millie, Jena, Isaac, and Lucy; great-grandchildren Victoria, Quade, and Rosie; Siblings David, Jim, Joanne, Paul, and Patti. Maryellen was preceded in death by her parents, a sister Ann, and a brother Drew.

Visitation will be held Saturday, February 7, 2026 at 11:00 AM followed by a Funeral Service at 12:00 PM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1401 Ninth St. NW, Great Falls, Montana.

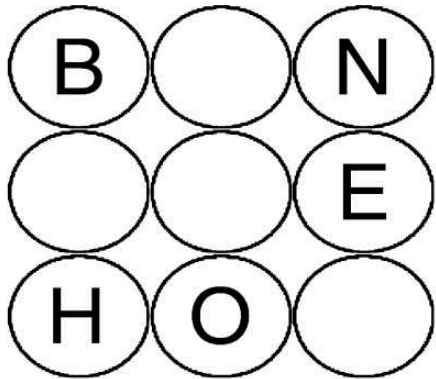


**Obituary and death notices are a difficult fact of life. They are a reminder of those we have loved and lost. The Great Falls Gazette does not require payment for submission of local obituaries or death notices, however, you are welcome to donate to our many programs to help people in our community to receive newspapers that they can enjoy. To submit an obituary or death notice, email them to [info@gfgazette.com](mailto:info@gfgazette.com) or call us at (406) 952-3021**



***In 2022: 49,476 people Americans died by suicide. Resources are available for those in crisis and survivors left behind. If you need help, call 988, or visit: [asfp.org](https://asfp.org)***

## WORD SPIRAL



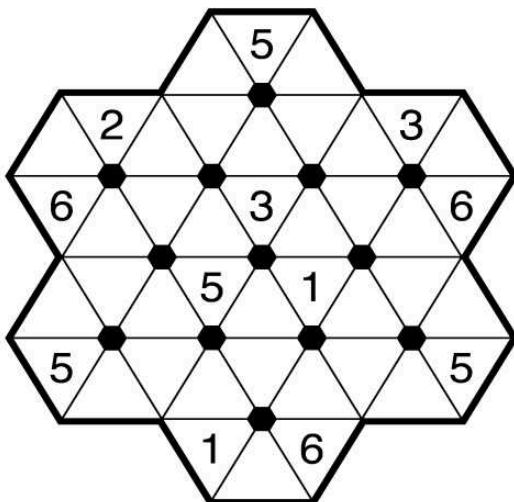
Fill in the missing letters to reveal the nine-letter word that starts at one of the four corners and moves clockwise around the perimeter before ending in the center.

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## SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆

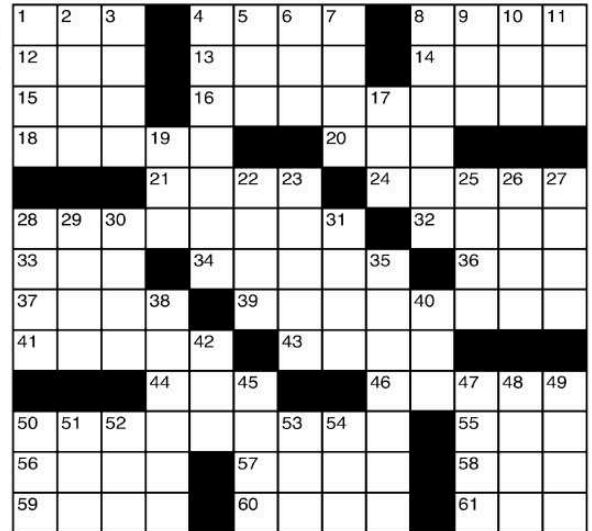
◆ Easy ◆◆ Medium ◆◆◆ Difficult

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Table support
- 4 Mosque leader
- 8 Island near Java
- 12 Terre Haute sch.
- 13 Terse denial
- 14 Poetic tributes
- 15 Ecol. watchdog
- 16 Faints
- 18 Word list, for short
- 20 Japanese pond carp
- 21 Sty chow
- 24 Rebuffs
- 28 Review in detail



- 32 Pesky insect
- 33 Friendly leader?
- 34 Albacore and yellowfin
- 36 Playwright Levin
- 37 Finn's floater
- 39 Revamp
- 41 Vampire, by nature
- 43 Nobelist Walesa
- 44 Bar bill
- 46 Savory taste
- 50 Begin anew, as on January 1
- 55 — Angeles
- 56 California valley

- 57 Egyptian river
- 58 Book-spine abbr.
- 59 Afternoon affairs
- 60 Darkens
- 61 Oklahoma city

- 5 Curly's brother
- 6 Devoured
- 7 Moo juice
- 8 Fan disapproval
- 9 Pt. of speech
- 10 Author Harper
- 11 Leb. neighbor
- 17 "Mayday!"
- 19 Bat wood
- 22 Egg
- 23 Prison-related
- 25 Rice or Auburn (Abbr.)
- 26 Naked
- 27 Rating unit
- 28 Basil or thyme
- 29 Smoothie berry
- 30 Cushy

- 31 Yard tool
- 35 Locks down
- 38 Block-dropping video game
- 40 Resistance unit
- 42 Scoundrel
- 45 Connection
- 47 Edison's middle name
- 48 Disposition
- 49 Actress Fisher
- 50 Retired jet
- 51 Dead heat
- 52 "I — Rock"
- 53 Half of XIV
- 54 Shade tree

### DOWN

- 1 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
- 2 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
- 3 Avocado dip, for short
- 4 Rorschach pattern

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## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: **K** equals **L**

VTTFAVX L YEHI KGVXTO  
 EBTVPAK BG HEB L KLOXT  
 IEVC GS YTLB, L YLV FTHKLOTF  
 "CVAST'P BGG PIGOB."

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## Public - Legal Notices

### Legal Notice

#### Notice of Hearing

#### RE: Change of Name of a Natural Person

Notice is hereby given that a hearing to change the name of a natural person, Nathan Kyle Rodarte, shall occur on February 11, 2026 at 9:00 am at the Cascade County District Courthouse, 415 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT, 59401 in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Courtroom of the honorable Judge Elizabeth A. Best.

*Published in the Great Falls Gazette on January 15th, 22nd, 29th, and February, 5th, 2026.*

### Legal Notice

#### Notice of Hearing

#### RE: Change of Name of a Natural Person

Notice is hereby given that a hearing to change the name of a natural person, Matthew Trey Wright, shall occur on February 25, 2026 at 9:00 am at the Cascade County District Courthouse, 415 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, MT, 59401 in the Montana Eighth Judicial District Courtroom of the honorable Judge John W Parker.

*Published in the Great Falls Gazette on January 22nd, 29th, February, 5th, and 12th, 2026.*



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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: [9:37 am MST Feb 4, 2026]

**Thursday** Sunny, with a high near 70. Southwest wind 8 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

**Thursday Night** Mostly clear, with a low around 28. South southwest wind 3 to 6 mph.

**Friday** Sunny, with a high near 64. Light south southwest wind becoming southwest 5 to 10 mph in the morning. Winds could gust as high as 20 mph.

**Friday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 39. Southwest wind around 11 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

**Saturday** Sunny, with a high near 62. Southwest wind 10 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 28 mph.

**Saturday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 43. Southwest wind around 14 mph, with gusts as high as 24 mph.

**Sunday** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 61.

**Sunday Night** A slight chance of rain after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

**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!**

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*The Johnson Brothers*  
*Winter Gospel Concert*

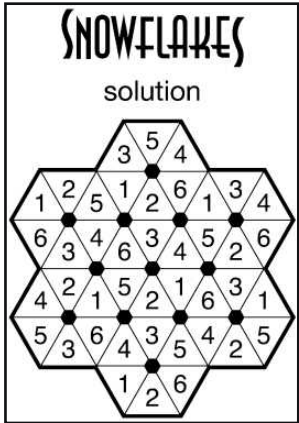
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**CryptoQuip**  
answer

Needing a much longer  
utensil to cut a large  
hunk of meat, a man declared  
"Knife's too short."

**Word Spiral**  
Answer

**HABANEROS**

**King Crossword**  
Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

L	E	G		I	M	A	M		B	A	L	I
I	S	U		N	O	T	I		O	D	E	S
E	P	A		K	E	E	L	S	O	V	E	R
V	O	C	A	B			K	O	I			
			S	L	O	P		S	N	U	B	S
H	A	S	H	O	V	E	R		G	N	A	T
E	C	O		T	U	N	A	S		I	R	A
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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.



**Couture, Michael Joseph:** 61 yoa, white male,  
5'10", 190#, brown eyes, brown hair, wanted on:  
violation of the terms of suspended sentence on  
non-support, felony. Total bond \$20,000.

*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.*

**The Gazette is Looking for  
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Excellent  
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# Careers @ Great Falls Gazette

## **Drivers:**

**The Gazette has openings for Gig (1099 contract) delivery drivers.**

- Pick your own schedule and routes.
- Able to try a few routes without long term commitment. At will drivers have more limited route options but may resign with only 3 days notice. You can make sure it will work before agreeing to a longer term commitment! You can pick anywhere from 1 to 6 days every week!
- Flexible pay, options to get paid every other week, every week, or even every day, let us know how you need to be paid! Get paid by company check or cash. Note payout affects per item fee!
- Pick routes you would enjoy. Both in town and rural routes available.
- All you need is a legal vehicle, drivers license and be over the age of 18.
- Gig workers have first option at other jobs at the Gazette.
- We respect seniority as well as understanding that for most, this is a side hustle. We work with you to get routes that let you make extra cash and still keep your "day job"

## **Office assistant(Hire):**

**The Gazette has openings for regular hire Office assistant**

- Must be proficient with computers. We will train on specialized, software, and help the right candidate to become a notary public!
- Candidate should be able to run most office software as well and use a computer properly. Will work with computerized order systems, business phone system, filing, story copywriting/reporting, customer service, light inside sales, and product ordering and fulfillment.
- Minimum of 15 hours per week. At times you may be offered additional hours. Our office opens at 8am, Generally we prefer people who work in the afternoon.
- Gig workers have first option at other jobs at the Gazette.
- Successful candidate must have a positive personality.

**Call (406) 952-3021 for more info about these jobs!**