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Vol. 3, Issue 156 December 30th, 2025

## Seventh Annual Operation Santa Brings Joy to Many on Christmas Morning

### Community Action

By Karen Anderson: December 28, 2025 - Great Falls, Mt

The Seventh annual Operation Santa event in Great Falls on Christmas morning was a tremendous success. Approximately 650 gifts were distributed, and the weather was perfect, making it the best year yet for the event, which took its third trek around West Elementary.

Laura Vukasin founded Operation Santa seven years ago after a visit to a school shortly after Christmas break. During this visit, a touching moment occurred when a few children believed they must not have been good that year because

(Continued on page 3)



Photo courtesy of Operation Santa

## Eric Strauss Appointed as Director of the Montana Department of Corrections

### State

By Karen Anderson: December 24, 2025 - Helena, Mt



Eric Strauss courtesy photo

Donald J. Trump to serve as a United States Marshal for the District of Montana.

"Eric has been a strong leader who will carry on Director Gootkin's progress at the Department of Corrections," stated Gov. Gianforte in a press release. "He's committed to overseeing the historic investments we've made into our correctional facilities and building the future of corrections in Montana. I'm grateful to Director Gootkin for his service to the State of Montana, and I look forward to seeing what Eric accomplishes in this role."

Governor Greg Gianforte has appointed Eric Strauss as the new Director of the Montana Department of Corrections, effective January 6th. This announcement follows the nomination of the current director, Brian Gootkin, by President

(Continued on page 4)

**Happy New Year  
from  
The Great Falls Gazette**



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Editor: Karen Anderson  
Publisher: Andy Anderson

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## City

### Crime Report From December 14th - 20th

No data was found for this time frame.

Source [www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com)

### Weekly Service Calls



#### GFFR Weekly Call Report for December 14th - December 21th

Operations Division:

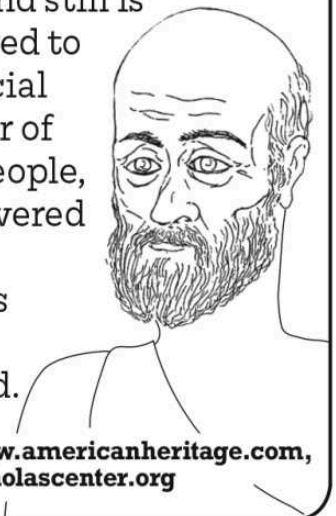
Car Crashes: 5  
EMS Calls: 99  
Calls for Service: 28  
Fire Calls: 5  
Power Lines Down: 17  
Carbon Monoxide Calls: 3  
Total Calls: 157

Fire Prevention Division:

Fire and Life Safety Inspections: 19  
New Business Site Visits: 3

## Fun Fact

Tradition has it that **St. Nicholas** was born in ancient Patara, now an archaeological site in modern Turkey. He was imprisoned for some time for his Christian faith, and went on to serve as bishop of Myra. He was and still is considered to be a special protector of young people, and is revered at many locations around the world.



Source: [www.americanheritage.com](http://www.americanheritage.com),  
[www.stnicholascenter.org](http://www.stnicholascenter.org)

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## Seventh Annual Operation Santa (Continued from page 1)



Photo courtesy of Operation Santa

Santa had not visited them. A first-grade teacher asked her students to share their holiday vacation experiences. One boy said, "I don't have a lot to tell you. I must not have been very good this year." When the teacher inquired why he felt that way, he replied, "Because Santa didn't come to my house." Two other little girls nodded in agreement, indicating that Santa had also skipped their homes. This heartfelt moment prompted Laura and others to start Operation Santa.

The group organizes gift

purchases, wraps them in various colored paper for boys and girls, and sorts them by age into large boxes. These boxes are placed in wagons pulled by horses and transported throughout the area. Each year, Operation Santa selects a different school district to share the joy of Christmas.

To attract attention, the group is led by fire trucks with lights and sirens blaring, encouraging people to come outside. Each year, around 100 to 200 volunteers participate. They identify the ages of children in local homes and select

appropriate gifts from the horse-drawn wagon to give to the kids. "We also had boxed candy, candy canes, and dog bones," explained Laura. "You can't forget anyone on Christmas!"

Operation Santa continues to grow each year, with the hope of making everyone's Christmas a little brighter. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the generous donors, shoppers, gift-wrappers, gift movers, box painters, and trailer loaders, as well as the hundreds of elves who distributed presents and candy to wonderful families.

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## Eric Strauss (Continued from page 1)

Strauss has been serving as the deputy director of the Department of Corrections since December 2024. Previously, he held the position of administrator for the Employment Standards Division at the Montana Department of Labor and Industry for nine years. Additionally, Strauss has served as the Director of Organizational Excellence at St. Peter's Hospital.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by Governor Gianforte's trust in me to serve as the next Director of the

Montana Department of Corrections," said Strauss. "I want to thank Director Gootkin for his leadership and dedication to public safety and rehabilitation. I look forward to building on the Department's strong foundation and working alongside our dedicated staff and community partners to ensure a safer, more effective corrections system for all Montanans."

A native of northeastern Montana, Strauss graduated with a Bachelor

of Arts in Communication Studies from the University of Montana. He also holds a Master of Arts in Communication Studies from the same university. Currently, Strauss serves as a board member of Shodair Children's Hospital and has previously been a board member for the Helena Area Habitat for Humanity and a commissioner on the Commission on Community Service. He resides in Clancy with his wife and two children.



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# Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

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## TO FINESSE OR NOT TO FINESSE

West dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

### NORTH

♠ K 10 4

♥ K 8 6 4 3

♦ A 9 6

♣ J 3

### WEST

♠ 9 5

♥ 10

♦ K 10 2

♣ K Q 10 8 7 6 4

### EAST

♠ A J 7 6 3

♥ 9

♦ Q J 8 5 4

♣ 5 2

### SOUTH

♠ Q 8 2

♥ A Q J 7 5 2

♦ 7 3

♣ A 9

The bidding:

<b>West</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
3 ♣	Pass	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	4 ♥		

Opening lead — king of clubs.

In the absence of any pertinent clues to the contrary, a finesse is essentially a 50-50 proposition. However, this figure can change dramatically as a result of information declarer may gain during the bidding or play. For example, an opening bidder would be far more likely than his silent partner to hold a missing king, queen or ace.

Consider this deal where a shrewd declarer playing in four hearts found a way to avoid taking a finesse that was likely to fail. He won the club lead with

the ace and could see three certain losers -- a club, a diamond and the ace of spades -- plus a potential fourth loser to the jack of spades.


South knew that the normal way to attack spades was to lead low toward dummy at a suitable point in the play and finesse the ten, hoping West had the jack. However, South was unwilling to put all his eggs in that one basket before he learned more about the opposing hands.

At trick two, he cashed the ace of hearts and then played the ace and another diamond. East won with the jack and led a club to West's queen. West then returned the diamond king, ruffed by declarer.

By now, South knew that West had started with one heart, at least three diamonds and presumably seven clubs for his three-club bid. West therefore had at most two spades, which in turn meant that East had at least five. East was therefore much more likely to hold the jack of spades than West.

So, instead of leading a spade to the ten, South led a spade to dummy's king. East took the ace (it would not have helped him to play low) and was then forced to yield the contract. If he returned a low spade, South would let it run to dummy's ten, and if he returned a diamond instead, South would ruff in one hand and discard his spade loser from the other.

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## Good Fortune (Cookies) Ahead

By Donna Erickson



**D**on't put away your holiday baking supplies yet. Start 2026 with your own homemade fortune cookies complete with a special message or prediction hidden inside. They're fun party favors for a New Year's celebration or a unique dessert for a weekend meal.

For 6-8 cookies, you will need:

- 1/4 cup flour
  - 1 tablespoon cornstarch
  - 2 tablespoons sugar
  - 1/8 tsp. salt
  - 2 tablespoons cooking oil
  - 1 egg white at room temperature
  - 1/2 tsp. vanilla
  - 1 teaspoon water
- Preheat oven to 300 degrees.

In medium bowl, combine sifted flour, cornstarch, sugar and salt. Stir in oil. Add egg white, vanilla and water and stir until smooth.

Pour 1 tablespoon of the batter onto a greased baking sheet. Spread with an offset spatula or the back of a spoon to form a 3-4 inch circle. Make 2 more rounds of dough on the sheet, although I suggest you bake one at a time at first until you get the hang of the folding technique which follows.

Bake about 10-12 minutes or until cookie turns a light brown color.

While you wait, let your kids be "writers" and compose lines for 2 1/2 by 1/2-inch strips of paper.

When the cookie is done, an adult should remove it from the oven. Quickly loosen cookie with a spatula and place on a clean kitchen towel. Set a fortune strip across the center with an end hanging out the side. Wearing potholders, fold the cookie in half to make a semi circle with the curved edge upward. Press edge together for a few seconds until it seals.

While the cookie is still pliable, immediately grasp the pointed ends of cookie with both hands and pull them together to crease. At this point it should be cool enough for your child to hold in place for about 20-30 seconds until the

cookie is crisp and keeps its final "fortune cookie" shape.

Set cookies in mini muffin tins to hold their shape until completely cool. Store in airtight container.

**TIPS:** Use 1/3 cup batter for each cookie and bake for 2-3 minutes longer to create giant fortune cookies.



Photo credit Donna Erickson

\*\*\*

Donna Erickson creates relationships and community through food and fun. Find more to nourish and delight you at [www.donnaerickson.com](http://www.donnaerickson.com).

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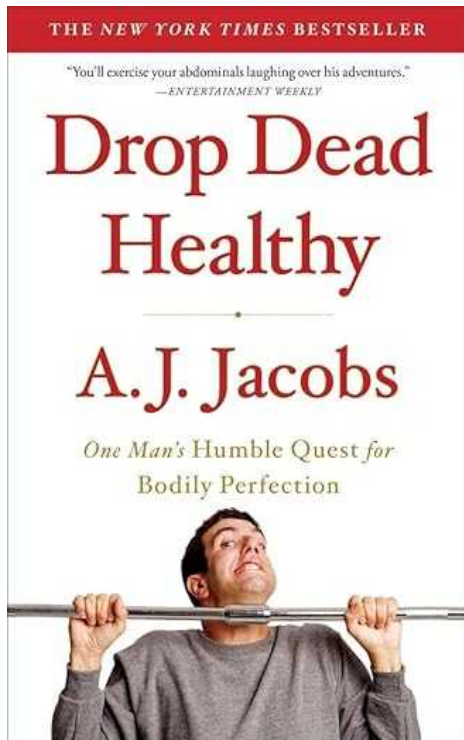
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# Book Review - Drop Dead Healthy: One Man's Humble Quest for Bodily Perfection by A. J. Jacobs

By Carole Ann Clark: December 18, 2025 - Great Falls, Mt



putting up with this man and his goofy lifestyle.

This latest volume chronicles Jacobs' two-year program to become the healthiest middle-aged man in the world—"maximal health from head to toe". The decision was precipitated by a hospital stay with a nasty bout of pneumonia, and Julie's ("I don't want to be a widow at 45") encouragement.

So, month by month, organ by organ, starting with the stomach, A.J. tackles his body. His strategy is to consult the experts in each field (sleep, nutrition, dermatology, exercise, etc.), read the latest and hopefully best advice on the topic of the month, buy the recommended gadgets and protective devices, join health clubs and fitness groups, and record the improvements made.

After listing more than 100 different diets, the author decides to skip the Taco Bell Drive-Thru Diet, but tries most of the others. What better place to start than with chocolate, wine, and coffee? Studies show that all, thank goodness, are good for you. Especially chocolate, is the message from my body. But of course, man (and woman) cannot subsist solely on what appeals to

our easily deluded taste buds, however delicious. Few of us really crave kale and quinoa, but we would be in better shape if we ate more of these kinds of food, and not so much of the empty carbs we stuff into our mouths. Grab a carrot instead of a hot dog, shouts one FDA employee.

Next, after the stomach, the heart takes center stage. It will surprise no one that exercise, along with the right diet (see above), is key to heart health. Jacobs rigs a treadmill desk contraption so he can walk while he types his articles. And yes, he logs the miles, which accumulate to almost 1,250 miles. A later chapter describes training for a triathlon, which A.J. completes, thanks to all of the improvements he has made in his life. Plans to run another are derailed by a massive sewage spill into the Hudson River. Avoiding toxins and pollution is, of course, the subject of one of the chapters!

So, I learned not to take any part of the body for granted, and that there are experts on each of them, not always agreeing with one another, and that keeping healthy is hard work. But since laughter is healing and good for you, reading this book will definitely improve both body and mind.

Whenever I read a new title by A. J. Jacobs, several thoughts come to mind. Firstly, he seems to have found the perfect job -writing columns for Esquire magazine, then collecting them into very humorous, quite informative, usually best-selling books. Second, he seems unable to commit to a single course of action for very long (actually, his job provides a good excuse for this squirrel-like attention span). Thirdly, his wife Julie is to be commended for

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# Obituaries

## Obituary of Judith Ann (Landblom) Peterson

Judith (Judy) Ann Peterson, aged 79, passed away on December 16, 2025, after a long illness. Judy was born on September 5, 1946, to Lloyd and Agnes Landblom. She had especially fond memories of antics with her brothers on their aunt and uncle's farm near Fairfield. She attended Whittier Elementary School, Paris Gibson Jr. High, and graduated from Great Falls High School in 1965. She also earned an accounting certificate from Great Falls Commercial College.



Upon her high school graduation, she married Gordon Jacobs, with whom she had two daughters, Jamie and Jill. They later divorced, though remained friends. In 1976,

she met and married Dwight Peterson, with whom she had her third daughter, Darcy. She was also stepmother to Dwight's two children, Chad and Tami.

She worked many jobs over the years. She worked delivering newspapers for the Tribune as a kid. She also worked in the accounting departments of the Mitzi M, Kid's Stuff, Mr. Mac, and Eklund's Appliance stores. She then worked for Buchanan Enterprises for many years, where she learned the property management business. She also worked for Quality Management for several years before starting her own property management business with her husband, Superior Property Management. They operated the business until their retirement in 2017.

She belonged to several organizations before her illness, including the National Association of Women in Construction, the Cowgirls Club, and the IPMs (Income Property Managers). She served on many of the boards for years in different capacities. She was a member of First English Lutheran Church.

Judy enjoyed reading murder mystery novels and doing crossword, sudoku, and jigsaw puzzles. She also enjoyed playing solitaire and Rumikub. Don't forget about shopping with her daughters, especially if there was a craft fair! Speaking of crafts, she liked to paint ceramics and do other crafts with her daughters as well.

Judy was always there for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren when they needed her. She kept an immaculate home and loved to decorate it for all of the different holidays. She hosted countless holiday dinners, game nights, and barbecues, making many precious memories for us all. She was a wonderful cook and hostess! She still made her children and grandchildren Easter baskets and stuffed their Christmas stockings long after they became adults! Holidays won't be the same without her, to be sure!

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dwight and her parents.

She is survived by her daughters, Jamie Jacobs (Scott Christensen), Jill Harvie (Victor Tacke), and Darcy Eskridge (Sean Eskridge); step-children, Chad Peterson (Sue) and Tami Devore (John); grandchildren, Christina Haworth (Dylan), Marissa Jacobs Wagner (Derek), Jevin Eskridge, and Nadine Eskridge; great-grandchildren, Patyn, Vincent, and Sofia Haworth and Colin Seledones; and numerous step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers, Stephen Landblom (Myrna) and Douglas Landblom (Karen); plus, several nieces, nephews, cousins, and her former husband, Gordon Jacobs (Melody).

Condolences for the family may be shared online at [www.SchniderFuneralHome.com](http://www.SchniderFuneralHome.com).

The logo for Schnider Funeral Home, featuring a green leaf icon above the name "Schnider" in a cursive font.



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## Obituary of Frances Feller

Frances Marie (Virostko) Feller passed away at Benefis Peace Hospice of natural causes on December 21, 2025, at the age of 95.



Frances was born June 30, 1930, to George Virostko Sr and Mary Ann Kohut. Frances and her 5 siblings

were raised in San Coulee, Montana. She only went to the 8th grade before starting to work full time at her family's ranch. She met and married the love of her life, Howard Ivan Feller, April 1949. Together they had three daughters, Sharon, Charlotte, and Arlene. She worked in customer service throughout her career at First Interstate Bank, IGA Grocery Store, Rosauers Supermarket, Bitterroot Pet Store, and after retiring worked part time at the Montana Expo Park Ticket office.

She was a devoted Catholic and attended Saint Ann's Cathedral. Frances loved gardening, and she always had the best tomato plants and rose bushes. These were always the envy of the neighborhood where she lived. Fran also enjoyed going for rides to her daughter Arlene's Ranch in Simms, Glacier National Park, and to Helena. She loved watching her daughter Sharon and her family show their miniature horses at the Montana State Fair. She was often found at her daughter Charlotte's house watching the birds and enjoying all her flowers. She loved spending time with all her

grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Frances is survived by daughters, Sharon (Clifton) Hanson, Charlotte (Keith) Fredricksen, and Arlene (Orville) Skogen; grandchildren, Kim (Curtis) Cunningham, Ron Bell, Tanya (Mike) Hitchcock, Brandy (Zeb) Stahmer, and Brian Skogen; 10 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; and her devoted friend, Pat McDermot.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Howard Feller; great-grandson, Kody LaValley; parents, George Sr and Mary Ann; brothers, George JR, John, and Anthony; and sisters, Agnes and Helen

The family will not be having a funeral but will have a family celebration of life later. Condolences for the family may be shared online at [www.OConnorFuneralHome.com](http://www.OConnorFuneralHome.com).

  
O'Connor

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potential thieves to the fact that your home is vacant.  
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1. Which singer-songwriter released "Don't Expect Me to Be Your Friend"?
2. In "American Pie," Don McLean sings of "the three men I admire most." Who were they?
3. Who was Magill (who called herself Lil), but everyone knew her as Nancy.
4. What is the name of Eric Clapton's first solo single?
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Remember when the days were long and rolled beneath a deep blue sky, Didn't have a care in the world."



Answers

1. Lobo, born Kent LaVoie, in 1972. Wayne Wade released a reggae version of the song in 1991 but renamed it "I Love You Too Much."
2. The Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. At the time it was the longest song (8 minutes 42

seconds) to ever reach the top of the U.S. charts. It kept that record for 50 years.

3. Rocky Raccoon's girlfriend in the Beatles 1968 song.
4. "After Midnight," in 1970.
5. "The End of the Innocence," by Don Henley in 1989. Although it didn't top the Hot 100 chart (coming in at No. 8), in 1990 the song netted Grammy nominations for both Song of the Year and Record of the Year before winning the Grammy for Best Rock Vocal Performance by a male.

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**Obituary of Beatrice (Bea) Boucher**

Beatrice (Bea) Marie Boucher, aged 83, a beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, Bea passed away peacefully in her sleep on December 25, 2025, after a long battle with cancer.

Bea was born Beatrice Marie Voller on March 3, 1942, in North Dakota.

Bea moved to Great Falls, Montana with her parents and six siblings in June 1960.

Bea's formal education was paused after the eighth grade when she was needed to help her parents on the farm. She would continue her education later in life ultimately earning a Nurse's Aide Certificate.

Bea met Delano Caffyn in 1960, and they were married in 1962. They had four children together. Bea and Delano divorced in 1971. Bea then married David Boucher in 1974 and divorced in 1990.

Bea worked for Deaconess/Benefis Hospital for over twenty-four years in the kitchen. She then retired in 2004.

Bea's favorite things in life were her family and Holter Lake. In her younger years, she enjoyed fishing and camping on the weekends, and later in life, she became a summertime fixture at her favorite place on earth, The Indian Trail Marina at Holter Lake, where she could be found at her trailer reading a book while enjoying the fresh air or having coffee with friends on the deck.

During the fall and winter months Bea was a jig saw puzzle enthusiast and an avid reader. She enjoyed sitting at her table and smoking cigarettes, having afternoon coffee, discussing the world's problems with her children, grandchildren, friends, and anyone else that cared to join in. She was a good cook and enjoyed cooking for her family and friends.

Her greatest joys were her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There was an extra sparkle in her eye whenever any of them were around.

She was a special light in the lives of everyone she touched and will be greatly missed.

Bea was preceded in death by her daughter; Michelle Caffyn and great-grandson; Everett Hazelton.



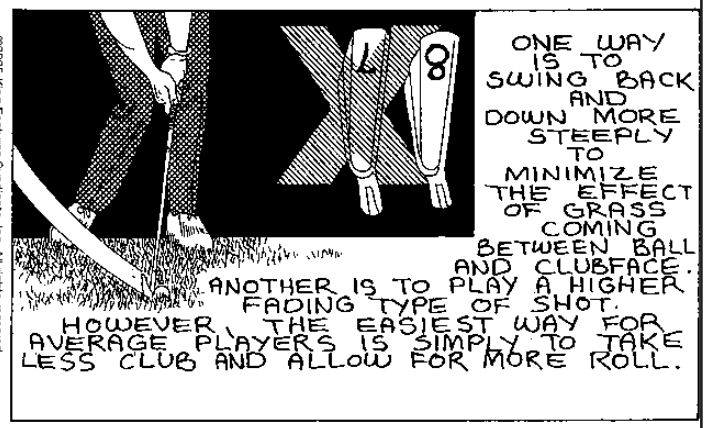
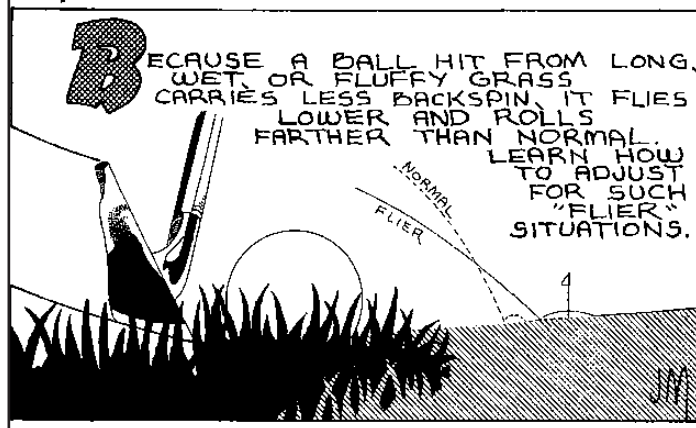
She survived by her remaining children; Mary (Victor) Phillips of Great Falls, Rose (Shawn) Woolsey of Great Falls, Reeves (Jeanine) Caffyn of Highwood. As well as nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Per Bea's final wishes there will be no formal services. If anyone wishes, please donate to the McClean Animal Shelter in lieu of flowers.

Condolences can be sent to the family at [www.SchniderFuneralHome.com](http://www.SchniderFuneralHome.com)



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## STICKELERS (sic) by Terry Stickels

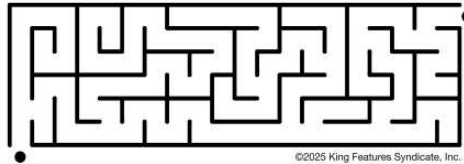
The six words below share an unusual characteristic that's not found in many English words. What is it?

animal   deliver   looter  
diaper   drawer   straw

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Puzzle answers can be found on the next page.

### Kids' Maze



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2	6				1
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**WEDDINGS | CONVENTIONS | PROMS**  
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**HOLIDAY PARTIES | REUNIONS | MORE!**

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### GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×		= 56			
+		+		+				
	+		×		= 60			
×		÷		÷				
9	+		÷		= 13			
=		=		=				
45		3		14				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Chant  

DABALL  

New  

LOVEN  

Ruler  

ERGENT  

Collect  

GEARTH  

### TODAY'S WORD



"By the way, when are you going to clean out the \_\_\_\_\_?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## Stickelers Answer

Each word forms a new word when read backward. This type of pairing is commonly called a "semordnilap," which is "palindromes" spelled backward.

## Go Figure!

answers

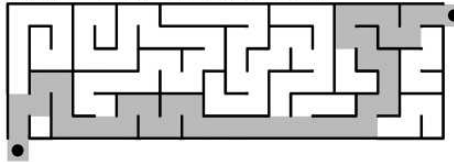
2	+	5	×	8	= 56
+		+		+	
3	+	7	×	6	= 60
×		÷		÷	
9	+	4	÷	1	= 13
=		=		=	
45		3		14	

## MINI SUDOKU

Answer

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

## Kids' Maze Solution



## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Ballad; 2. Novel;
3. Regent; 4. Gather

Today's Word

**GARAGE**



Business and Networking Coach

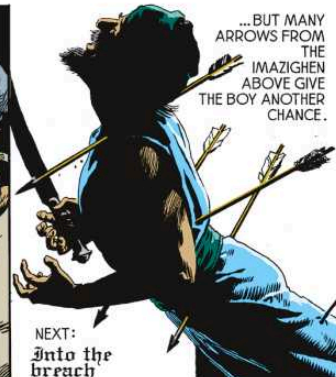
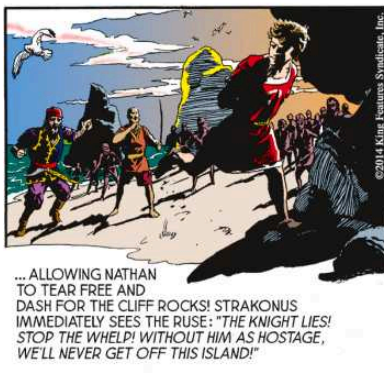


- Media Strategies
- Business Growth
- Business Start-up
- Next Step Leadership
- Video Production
- Commercials
- Interviews
- On-Line courses
- 90 Day Growth System



Schedule a meeting

406.899.0404  
jayson@jaysonolthoff.com  
https://jaysonolthoff.com



# 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](mailto: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 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.**



## Need a side gig that really delivers?



- Work the hours YOU want. Routes and scheduled shifts available every day of the week!
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**Call (406) 952-3021 to get the full scoop!**

## Hey You!!!

Do you have a great idea for a news story, a news tip, or would you like to even write a story? We'd love to help get the word out! I love news about all of our communities, and you can help us get it out there. It's easy, and in some cases you can even get paid.

Everything from Human Interest stories, news items, sports reports and scores, even a review of the local school talent show or science fair, everyone in your community needs YOU to help get the word out. Call (406) 952-3021 and speak to the news desk today!



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**The first 35 words are only \$7.50, and 15¢ per word thereafter for a limited time!  
Include a picture for just \$1.50 each (some limitations apply)  
Ads run all week long in Foxys Publishing Papers.  
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Call (406) 604-8929 and ask for Ad Sales for more information!**



*"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](mailto: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!**



**Subscribe to The Great Falls Gazette today by calling us at (406) 604-0323.**

**A focus on pets' weight for the New Year**



DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I've made a resolution that I hope will resonate with many of your readers. My cat, "Gerard," is 6 years old and has become very overweight. I can barely pick him up! Since October, I have been working with Gerard's veterinarian to manage his weight, and things are turning around. I hope that this year, readers will focus on their pets' whole health.

Not just checkups, but everyday choices that will give their pets, like my cat, a longer, healthier life.  
-- Carly B. in Youngstown, Ohio

DEAR CARLY: That is a fantastic resolution. Focusing on our pets' well-being not only benefits them, but positively affects our lives as well.

Weight management alone has so many pluses. Keeping dogs and cats at a healthy weight reduces their risks for diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and some cancers. It also helps them move faster and play more because their energy levels leap up. It can lead to an overall longer lifespan -- so they're part of your family for many years to come.

Working with a vet is ideal. They can offer impactful advice on ways to help your pet lose weight, and set a target weight for the type and size of pet. They can prescribe medications to help with anxiety and other issues that might be causing a cat or dog to eat more than they should. And they have a ton of information on keeping your pet healthy and safe, beyond weight management.

With more than half of dogs and cats in the U.S. now classified as overweight, making a resolution to get your pet to a healthy weight is one of the best things a pet owner can do right now.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto: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: [4:02 pm MST Dec 28, 2025]

**Tuesday** Mostly sunny, with a high near 48. Southwest wind 6 to 13 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.

**Tuesday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 33. Southwest wind 9 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday** Mostly sunny, with a high near 51. Southwest wind around 9 mph.

**Wednesday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. Southwest wind 5 to 7 mph.

**New Year's Day** Partly sunny, with a high near 49. Southwest wind 6 to 9 mph.

**Thursday Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.

**Friday** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 50.

**Friday Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29.

**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!**



"I like it local!"

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



**Check out our Super Sunday issue. You can pick up a Super Sunday issue for just \$2.75, which includes everything from the regular Sunday issue, along with all the obituaries and opinion pieces from the previous Tuesday and Thursday. This is a great way to get all the Obituaries you may have missed from the previous Tuesday and Thursday. Call us today at (406) 604-0323 for more information.**



Do you love Great Falls? We need **YOU** to tell it's story. We accept stories from freelance writers and everyday people to help tell the story of Great Falls. Call Karen today to find out how you can help! (406) 952-3021

# 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.



Donate to CrimeStoppers here



**Collins, Joseph Patrick:** 54 yoa, white male, 6', 220#, brown hair, brown eyes, wanted on: Violation of Terms of Suspended Sentence on Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs, felony, total bond \$20,000



**Molina, Curtis Cole:** 28 yoa, Native American male, 5'8", 145lb, brown eyes, brown hair, wanted on: Violation of terms of deferred sentence on criminal possession of dangerous drugs, felony; total bond \$25,000.

## THE MISADVENTURES OF TIPPER

Created by Patricia Hahn Schlaeger 12-2025.



What's Wrong Bandit???



Dad Warmed Up Our Car . . .



And Left It Running!!



And a Thief drove off with it!! ...

**NEVER LEAVE A RUNNING VEHICLE UNATTENDED!**