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Vol. 4, Issue 18 January 28th, 2026

Power School Continues “Power of Impact” Tradition Honoring Community Influence

Schools By Lauren Vick: January 26, 2026 - Power, Mt



Photo credit Lauren Vick

Power School proudly held its annual Power of Impact ceremony, a student-led tradition that recognizes community members, educators, and mentors who have made a lasting difference in the lives of graduating seniors.

Now in its third year, Power of Impact was originally created by Power School graduate Jaxson Parkinson as part of his Leadership and Community Involvement class. The tradition

continues today as seniors honor individuals whose guidance and support shaped them long before they realized the depth of that influence. This year’s theme, “Rooted in Influence,” emphasized the idea that true impact often grows quietly over time through consistency, care, and belief in students.

During the ceremony, members of the Class of 2026 recognized

(Continued on page 4)

Great Falls Public Schools Presents Annual AA Orchestra Festival

Schools By Karen Anderson: January 27, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt

Great Falls Public Schools invites you to the annual AA Orchestra Festival. This evening of orchestral music will be performed at CM Russell High School on February 3rd at 5 pm. Chamber Orchestras from CM Russell High School and Great Falls High School, as well as special guests from Anaconda, will be featured during this concert.

The concert will be conducted by Maestra

Anne Harrigan, who currently serves as the music director of the Billings Symphony. Her expertise and passion for orchestral music will certainly inspire both the performers and the audience.

Music lovers of all ages are invited to this free event. Support our local young musicians and enjoy an evening filled with beautiful melodies and captivating performances.



Photo credit Great Falls Public Schools

See inside for update on Homicide of Terrell Johnson



Your source for local news and information

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A Foxys Publishing Co Paper
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Great Falls, MT 59401-3288

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Great Falls Gazette
(Print ISSN: 2993-6950, Online ISSN: 2993-6969) is publishing semi-weekly by Foxys Publishing Co, 1601 2nd Ave N, Suite 345, Great Falls, MT 59401. Application to Mail at Periodicals Prices is Pending at Great Falls, MT.
POSTMASTER Send address changes to Great Falls Gazette, 1601 2nd Ave N, Suite 345, Great Falls, MT 59401-3288



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Editor: Karen Anderson
Publisher: Andy Anderson

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City

Law Enforcement Continue to Investigate the Homicide of Terrell Johnson - January 27th Update

By Karen Anderson: January 27, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



Screen capture from video provided by CCSO

On Friday, January 9th, the Cascade County Sheriff's Office announced a suspicious death that occurred in the 1700 block of 22nd Avenue South, just outside the city limits of Great Falls. The victim has been identified as Terrell Johnson, a 25-year-old male from Harlem, Montana.

This case has been confirmed as a homicide, with the cause of death being multiple stab wounds. Throughout the investigation, the Cascade County Sheriff's Office has received assistance from the Great Falls Police Department, the Montana Division of Criminal

Investigations, and the FBI.

On January 27th, Sheriff Jesse Slaughter released another update, including video footage that was posted on Facebook. The narrowed search parameter includes 14th St S to 20th St S and 10th Ave S to 2nd Ave S. The Cascade County Sheriff's Office is looking for any video evidence for January 9th between the time of approximately 3:30 am and 4:47 am. This is the time frame that the person of interest gets in the car with the victim.

(Continued on page 3)



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Homicide of Terrell Johnson (Continued from page 2)

In the videos, a person of interest is seen walking with their head and face covered, making visual identification difficult. However, investigators are asking the public to pay attention to the individual's walking style, clothing, and the bag they are carrying, as these details may help in identifying the person.

In the second video, two individuals can be seen inside a vehicle, which has been confirmed to be a 2014 red Chevrolet Cruze previously mentioned by the Cascade County Sheriff's Office. The driver of the vehicle is the victim, Terrell Johnson, while the person of interest is seated in the passenger seat. "We are pretty confident that this person is the last person to see our victim alive," Stated Sheriff Jesse Slaughter.

Although the footage is zoomed in, investigators believe there may be enough distinguishing information

to positively identify this person of interest. The Cascade County Sheriff's Office is urging anyone who recognizes this individual, their walking style, clothing, bag, or any other detail in the videos to reach out to detectives.

If you have any information

regarding this investigation, please contact Detective Nick Allison at 406-836-0010 or email him at nallison@casadecountymt.gov.

Stay tuned to The Great Falls Gazette as we will update when more information becomes available.



Screen capture from video provided by CCSO



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School

Power School (Continued from page 1)

community members and school staff who have played meaningful roles in their personal and academic journeys. While some seniors were unable to attend due to school competitions, each recognition reflected thoughtful reflection and gratitude.



Photo credit Lauren Vick

This year's event was supported by FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) and funding from Youth Service America, with senior Tanner Vick helping lead efforts to ensure the tradition continues for future graduating classes. FCCLA members also connected the ceremony to Youth Service

America's Week of Service, highlighting gratitude as a powerful form of service and leadership.



Photo credit Lauren Vick

Power of Impact continues to strengthen the connection between students, school, and community by celebrating those whose influence lasts far beyond the classroom. The ongoing success of the tradition reflects the leadership of students and the strong support of the Power community.

For more information about FCCLA or Power of Impact, please contact Power School.

Student- Honoree

Zach Brandt → Marge Simonson
 Quaid Callison → Melissa Goretskie
 Sawyer Eaves → Dawn Sievers
 Millicent Floyd → Hanna Tarum
 Madylin Gilbert → Barb Swaby
 Laurlynn Harrell → Randall Reeve
 Ema Radosavljevic → Dawn Sievers
 Cannon Stewart → Travis Vick
 Grace Toeckes → Melissa Gilbert
 Tanner Vick → Terri Perry

Rebekah Wall → Coco Anderson



Photo credit Lauren Vick

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Living

Fur-Ever Love - Elsie

By Joseph Parchen, City of Great Falls Animal Shelter: January 26, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt

You might notice Elsie's crossed eyes right away, but it takes only a moment longer to see that they don't slow her down one bit. In fact, they seem to add to her charm — a gentle quirk that matches her sweet, affectionate nature perfectly.

Elsie is the kind of cat who truly enjoys being noticed. She leans into attention, soaking up pets and affection with the confidence of a cat who knows she's loved. A certified purr baby, she starts rumbling happily as soon as she feels a reassuring hand, turning even quiet moments into something cozy and calm. She's also delightfully chatty, offering soft commentary on her day and greeting you with curiosity whenever something new catches her eye.

At just over three and a half years old, Elsie has that wonderful balance of maturity and playfulness. Curious but composed, she enjoys exploring her surroundings and being part of whatever is happening nearby. Her dilute torti point coloring is as unique as her personality, and at a healthy ten pounds, she's ready to settle comfortably into a loving home.

Spayed and full of heart, Elsie is looking for someone who will appreciate her sweetness, her conversation, and those unforgettable crossed eyes.

Adoption Application: <https://gfmt.link/gfasapp>

Available dogs and cats: <https://gfmt.link/gfasadopt>



Obituaries

Obituary of Mirasol Buda

Mirasol Buda, of Great Falls, passed away on January 26, 2026. She was born in Manila in the Philippines on July 1, 1947, to Emmanuel and Adelina Canete. She married Salvatore Buda and immigrated to the United States in 1971 when they moved to New York City.

She did door to door sales with Stanley and Mary Kay products. She later became a hostess for the Roy Rogers restaurant in Brooklyn. She moved to Great Falls to get away from New York in 1990 where she worked at the Missouri River Manor for a few years. Mostly she was her kids' mother.

She loved to play Bingo at the Senior Center until her sight was

gone. She had many dogs and she loved every one of them.



Mirasol was preceded in death by Salvatore who died in 2003. She is

survived by her daughters, Rosina Buda of Great Falls and Judith (James) Freshwater of Colorado Springs, Colorado; brother, Salvatore in Jacksonville, Florida; grandson, Nicholas in Colorado Springs; and many nieces and nephews who she treated as her own children.

There will be a funeral service at O'Connor Memorial Chapel on January 28, 2026, at 10 am followed by burial at Mount Olivet. Condolences for the family may be shared online at www.OConnorFuneralHome.com.



Obituary of Ronald Wayne Peach

Ronald Wayne Peach, aged 91, passed away on January 22, 2026, in Great Falls, Montana.

He was born on September 28, 1934, in Cloquet, Minnesota to Charles and Laura Peach. Ronald attended Cloquet Minnesota Primary School, Great Falls High School, and graduated in 1952.

Ronald went on to marry Judith K. Anderson in Great Falls, Montana on June 14, 1980.

He worked as the Car Parts Man at Valley Motor Supply for forty years. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church. He was also a part of the Moose, Eagles, and Elks Clubs, but he held many offices in the Moose Club.

He was an avid reader of Western Novels, playing cards, working sudoku puzzles and he loved to travel, including two trips to Europe, one in 1962 and the other in 2005.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Laura Peach.

Ronald is survived by his spouse, Judith K. Peach of Great Falls, Montana and many cousins in Minnesota.

He will be interred at Hillcrest Lawn Mausoleum at a later date.

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



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 or call us at (406) 952-3021



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"Sure, I've got a great diet —
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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!

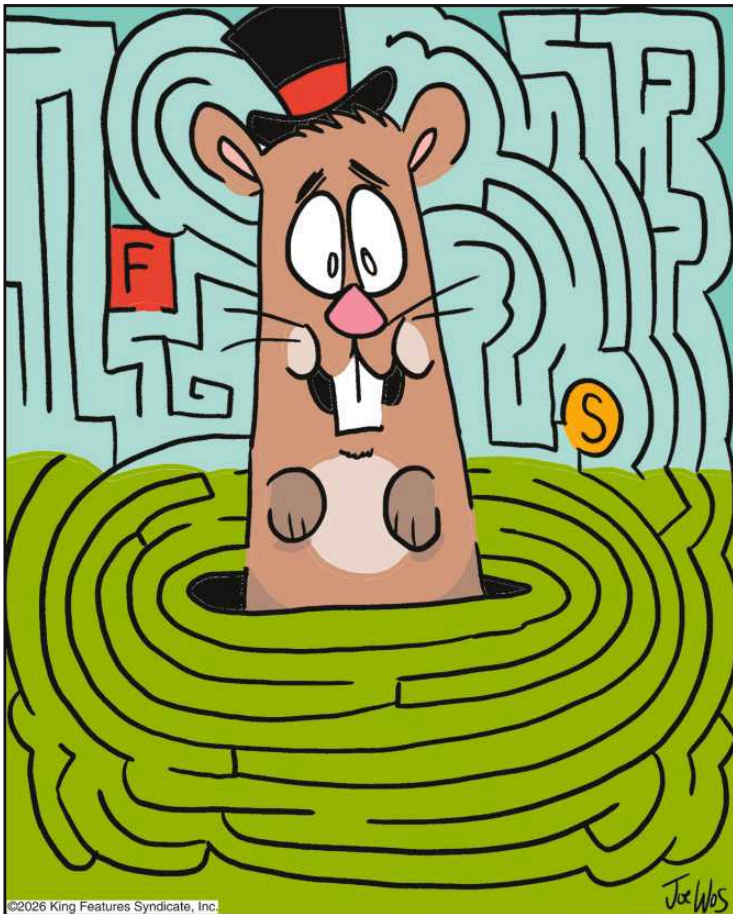
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DECO

Exclusive
INDIES

Clumsy
TIPEN

TODAY'S WORD



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Puzzle answers can be found on page 9.

STICKELERS ^[sic]

by Terry Stickels

See how many anagrams you can find for the following words.

- 1) stimulate
- 2) percussion
- 3) aligned
- 4) gander

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CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAXR
is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

BCUXENR RIZO LIXUC QZYG
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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: [11:23 am MST Jan 26, 2026]

Wednesday Mostly cloudy, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 10 to 16 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Wednesday Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind 9 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Thursday Mostly sunny, with a high near 49. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Thursday Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33. Southwest wind 8 to 10 mph.

Friday Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

Friday Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 36.

Saturday Mostly sunny, with a high near 57.

Saturday Night Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

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!

Stickelers Answer

- 1) stimulate — ultimates, mutilates
- 2) percussion — supersonic
- 3) aligned — leading, dealing
- 4) gander — garden, ranged, danger

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Caramel; 2. Code;
3. Inside; 4. Inept

Today's Word

INCOME

CryptoQuote

answer

Friends show their love
in times of trouble, not
in happiness.
— Euripides

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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.



Bird, James Dean Jr: 37 yoa, Native American male, 6'0", 195#, blue eyes, blonde hair, wanted on: aggravated burglary, felony, stalking, felony, and violation of order of protection, 1st offense, misdemeanor. Total bond \$100,000.

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