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# Great Falls Gazette

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*Vol. 4, Issue 20 January 30th, 2026*

## Earthquake Felt in Great Falls

**City** By Karen Anderson: January 29, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



Photo courtesy of Google's Android Earthquake Alert System

An earthquake tremor occurred at approximately 12:45 PM on January 29th. This Earthquake was reported to be a 4.9 magnitude, approximately 6.7 miles away from Great Falls, shaking Montana and parts of Canada, according to Google's Android Earthquake Alert System.

Malmstrom Air Force Base confirmed all operations are proceeding as normal. Immediately after the event, teams of dedicated Airmen conducted thorough inspections across the entire base and the missile complex. They

found no damage to any equipment or facilities, and the security of the missile complex remains fully intact.

"The safety of our Airmen, their families, and our local community is our highest priority," explained John Turner, 341st Missile Wing Public Affairs. "We will continue to monitor our systems to ensure the continued safety and security of the base and the surrounding area."

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

## Homicide of Terrell Gage Johnson Update January 29th

**City** By Karen Anderson: January 29, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt

The Cascade County Sheriff's Office has provided an update on the ongoing homicide investigation concerning the death of Terrell Gage Johnson, a 25-year-old male from Harlem, Montana. Johnson was found deceased inside a vehicle in the 1700 block of 22nd Avenue South in Cascade County on January 9, 2026.

On January 27, 2026, the Eighth Judicial District Court issued an arrest warrant for 20-year-old Lane Gibson after a felony charge of tampering with Witnesses or Informants was filed against him, in violation of Montana Code Annotated § 45-7-206(1) (a). This charge arises from actions Gibson allegedly took during the

ongoing investigation. According to court documents, investigators developed probable cause that Gibson attempted to influence a potential witness to provide false information about his whereabouts in the early morning hours of January 9, 2026. He allegedly took these actions after becoming aware that a criminal investigation was being conducted.

Gibson is considered a person of interest in the case and is believed to have been with the victim in the hours leading up to the homicide. He was taken into custody on January 28, 2026. Bail has been set at

*(Continued on page 12)*



Victim's vehicle, a red 2014 Chevrolet Cruze. Photo courtesy of CCSO



**Your source for local news and information**

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# Great Falls Gazette®

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Editor: Karen Anderson  
Publisher: Andy Anderson

Subscription coupon is located on page 3

## City

### Give Great Falls 2026

By Sarah Cawley, Great Falls Area Community Foundation: January 17, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt



POWERED BY



organizations register and start the conversations around giving. There is a \$50 registration fee to help pay for the platform.

Save the Date for April 27th for our annual Nonprofit Showcase at The Newberry! Food, raffle baskets, and a 50/50 will be available at this incredible event, as well as an opportunity to meet over 50 nonprofits all in one location. Come learn about the organizations in a relaxing environment, and know that there are no expectations for donations at this event.

In 2025, Give Great Falls raised a total of \$60,417 for 64 different organizations. There were 437 individual donors, which averages at \$161 per person for donations. Sponsors for 2025 were TDS Fiber, The Newberry, United Way of Cascade County, DA Davidson, Montana Credit Union, Comparion Insurance Agency - Todd Neighbor, and Matt Ehnes Photography.

If you are interested in sponsoring for 2026, please contact Sarah Cawley at [gfgcommunityboard@gmail.com](mailto:gfgcommunityboard@gmail.com). All sponsorship levels are currently available.

The Great Falls Area Community Foundation's (GFACF) mission is to provide opportunities for visionary philanthropy to the Great Falls area by connecting people who care with causes that matter now and far into the future. They strive to help other nonprofits in this area to continually grow financially and in their professionalism with staff and volunteers.

Give Great Falls (GGF) is scheduled for April 26 - May 2, 2026 in conjunction with the other Giving Days around the state. GFACF will open registrations for GGF on February 2nd with the same previously used platform. Join us for our kickoff party and pint night on February 2nd at Mighty Mo Brewing Co. to help

**You have a voice! Is something happening around town, the county, the state, or maybe something you read in this paper make you want to speak up? There is a way! Send in a letter to the editor! Tell us how you feel, include your name and either email or phone number (we only print your initials unless you're an elected official, and we never print your contact info!) and we'll get how you feel out there. Email to [letters@gfgazette.com](mailto:letters@gfgazette.com) or mail to 1601 2nd Ave N, #345, Great Falls, MT 59401**

<b>City</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Living</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>CrimeStoppers</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Market</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Fun-E-Pages</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Obituaries</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Legal</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Weather</b>	<b>8</b>

## Homicide Update (Continued from page 1)

\$150,000, and if convicted, he faces a potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison, a \$50,000 fine, or both.

As always, all individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Anyone

with information related to this investigation is encouraged to contact the Cascade County Sheriff's Office through official channels or reach out to Detective Nick Allison at 406-836-0010 or [nallison@cascadecountymt.gov](mailto:nallison@cascadecountymt.gov).

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**The Garden Bug**

**Top gardening apps**

Apps for planning:	Apps for plant care:
• Planter	• Planta
• iScape	• From Seed to Spoon
• Gardenize	• Garden Manager
• Gardroid	• Moon and Garden

— Brenda Weaver  
Source: [gardentherapy.ca](http://gardentherapy.ca)

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## Fun Fact

Great white sharks are the largest predatory fish on our planet, growing as long as 20 feet and weighing as much as 4,000 pounds. The mouth of a great white is equipped with a set of 300 sharp, triangular teeth arranged in up to seven rows.

Sources:  
[oceana.org](http://oceana.org),  
[www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com),  
[www.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)



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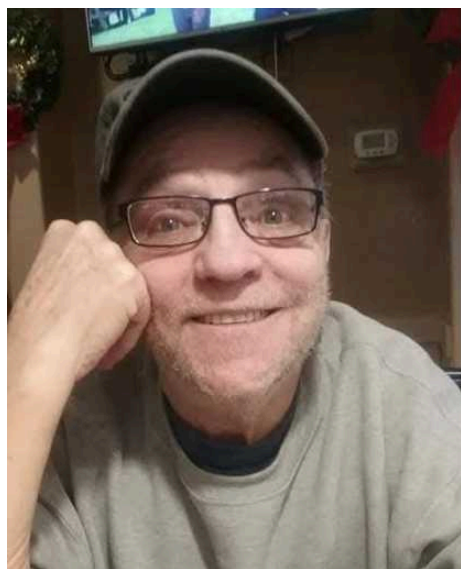
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# Obituaries

## Obituary of Dr. George Leo Carter III

Dr. George Leo Carter III passed away on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Benefis at the age of 80 due to lack of oxygen. He was given CPR for 25 minutes before being put on life support and moved to the ICU where he passed away. He was given an honor walk on Monday, January 26, 2026.



George was born on October 2, 1945, in Leominster, Massachusetts. He grew up in Anaheim, California where he watched Disneyland being built. He moved to Paris, France before moving to the state of Washington with his late wife number 4.

In 1965, he was drafted during the Vietnam War and served three years in the Philippines where he was the 1st Battalion Lt of the 60th Infantry Division. He graduated from Magnolia High School. He attended college at CIT-CalTech, USC, UCI, and CSU. He studied 10 years of math and computer technologies before receiving his doctorate. Dr. George worked for NASA/JPL as a Theoretical Astrophysicist for over 30 years. This enabled him to travel the world. He married five times, having no children of his own due to all his travels.

Growing up, George dreamed of being a comedian, but worked in theatre helping to build sets and sang on occasion. A life that he

missed. He managed bus drivers, coached women's softball, surfed the Caly waves, was a scuba diver, played baseball and football at USC. He was a fry cook and volunteered at Giant Springs Elementary as a foster grandparent where he directed the "Passions Project." Here the kids picked a topic to research that was then presented in front of an audience. George was proud of all the kids he fostered and worked with at the school.

He leaves behind his fifth wife of 6-1/2 years, Bonnie Baughn of WA; sisters, Vickie Materna and Janny Allison, both of AR; niece, Tina Materna also of AR; stepdaughter, Cora Baughn of WA; and mother-in-law, Janice O'Dell also of WA.

He will be missed by all. Thank you for the years of love and laughter.



## Obituary of Keely Carrette

On September 18, 2025, Keely Lynell Carrette of Great Falls, Montana, passed away at the age of 57.

Husband, Gordon Azure.

Father, Louis Carrette.

Mother, Mary Lou Dykeman

Children, Krissy Ellswortch, Billy and Dakota Smeltzer, Donteah Mellen, and Logan Erpelding.

Sisters, Cindy Shaw, Terri Carrette, Renee Carrette, and Stacie Gerard.

Granddaughter, Ayla Enloe.

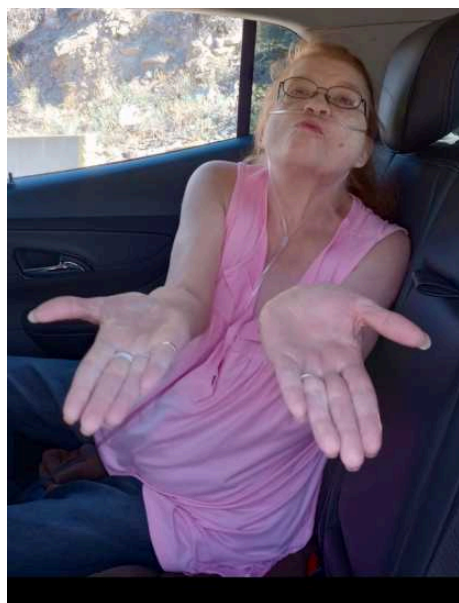
Niece, Jessica Shaw.

And many more nieces and nephews.

Keely was loved by many and will be greatly missed.

Celebration of life will be held on February 7, Saturday, 1 PM at Antioch Church, 4700 10th Ave South, Great Falls, Montana.

Potluck, everyone welcome.



Obituaries

**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**





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(1300 12th Ave S)

**\*\* Conoco**

(5600 3rd Ave S)

**\*\* Conoco**

(1608 Fox Farm Rd)

**\* Conoco**

(3601 10th Ave S)

**- Circle K**

(601 NW Bypass)

**- The Little Store**

(5435 Lower River Road)

**- Foot of the Cross  
Christian Store**

(1200 10th Ave S. Suite  
30F)

(1200 10th Ave S. Suite  
30F)

**\*\*Circle K**

(1020 15th St N)

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## Living

### Fur-Ever Love - Sterling

By Joseph Parchen, City of Great Falls Animal Shelter: January 14, 2026 - Great Falls, Mt

**D**on't fight it — you're already falling under his spell.

Meet Sterling, a young, medium-sized mixed-breed dog whose hypnotic eyes and fluffy good looks have a way of stopping people in their tracks. At around 48 pounds, Sterling is the perfect size for adventure without being overwhelming, and his black-and-cream coat only adds to his standout presence.

Sterling loves the outdoors and thrives when he can get fresh air, stretch his legs, and take in the world around him. Walks are a favorite activity, and he approaches them with enthusiasm and curiosity. He also happens to be quite the conversationalist. Sterling isn't shy about sharing his thoughts, whether it's a friendly greeting or commentary on his day.

While Sterling can live with other dogs, he does best with calm, respectful companions who appreciate personal space and easygoing energy. In the right environment, his confidence and charm truly shine. He has just enough sass to keep things interesting and a personality that's even bigger than his fluff.

Sterling is a young, neutered male with a lot of love to give and a strong desire to find a home where he can settle in and be himself. If you're looking for a dog who is equal parts character, companionship, and charm, Sterling may already have your attention — and your heart.

To apply for adoption, visit [gfmt.link/gfasapp](https://gfmt.link/gfasapp).

To view all adoptable pets, visit [gfmt.link/gfasadopt](https://gfmt.link/gfasadopt).



## Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                          |           |                   |           |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Cartes du jour        | __ E ____ | Subtraction sign  | __ I ____ |
| 2. Car bumper            | F ____    | Financier         | L ____    |
| 3. Clothes stiffener     | __ T ____ | Look for          | __ E ____ |
| 4. Throw like Nolan Ryan | __ T ____ | Tweak             | __ N ____ |
| 5. Cool and invigorating | __ S ____ | Mason's block     | __ C ____ |
| 6. He asked for "more"   | O ____    | Splinter          | S ____    |
| 7. Gawk                  | __ T ____ | Petrify           | __ C ____ |
| 8. Hesitate              | __ A ____ | Strainer or sieve | __ I ____ |
| 9. Swap                  | __ D ____ | Smidgeon          | __ C ____ |
| 10. Racket               | N ____    | Composure         | P ____    |

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### FEAR KNIGHT

By: rj johnson  
DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

ANC ▼ DACERG ERMEC ♥ ERDI ▼ RIDONA GDU ONAR NEMIC ♥ REA ▼ EMREDA DANLE ▼ OSGE		©2026 King Features Syndicate. All rights reserved.
--	---	---

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

## Puzzles4Kids by Helene Hovanec

### CODED RIDDLE

Change each letter to the one that comes immediately BEFORE it in the alphabet to find a riddle and its answer.

Here's a copy of the alphabet to guide you:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

XIBU TIPVME ZPV TBZ

\_\_\_\_\_

UP BO BOHSZ QPMBS CFBS?

\_\_\_\_\_

OPUIJOH. KVTU SVO BXBZ!

\_\_\_\_\_

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## KNIGHT MOVES

I	O	E
P		L
T	N	L

Unlock the power of chess to find the eight-letter word of the day. Choose your starting letter carefully, then move around the square in a one by two fashion to get to the next letter.

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## PUBLIC - LEGAL NOTICES

### 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, Janis Lynn Griggs, 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 David J. Grubich.

*Published in the Great Falls Gazette on January 16th, 23rd, 30th, and February, 6th, 2026.*

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### For Sale

### Events

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Friday, February 13th 1p - 6p  
Saturday, February 14th 9a - 6p  
Sunday, February 16th 9a - 3p

\$5 for the weekend, kids under 15 free with adults.

Mark (406) 868-9185  
Jan (406) 788-6104

***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!***



# Local Weather For Great Falls

NWS Forecast for: Cascade County below 5000ft  
Issued by: National Weather Service Great Falls, MT  
Last Update: [1:57 pm MST Jan 29, 2026]

**Friday** Increasing clouds, with a high near 51. Southwest wind 10 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Friday Night** Cloudy, then gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 40. Southwest wind 17 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 31 mph.

**Saturday** Sunny, with a high near 56. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.

**Saturday Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 31. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday** Partly sunny, with a high near 57. South southwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

**Sunday Night** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 37. South southwest wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.

**Monday** Mostly sunny, with a high near 53. Southwest wind 13 to 18 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Monday Night** Partly cloudy, with a low around 30.

**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!**



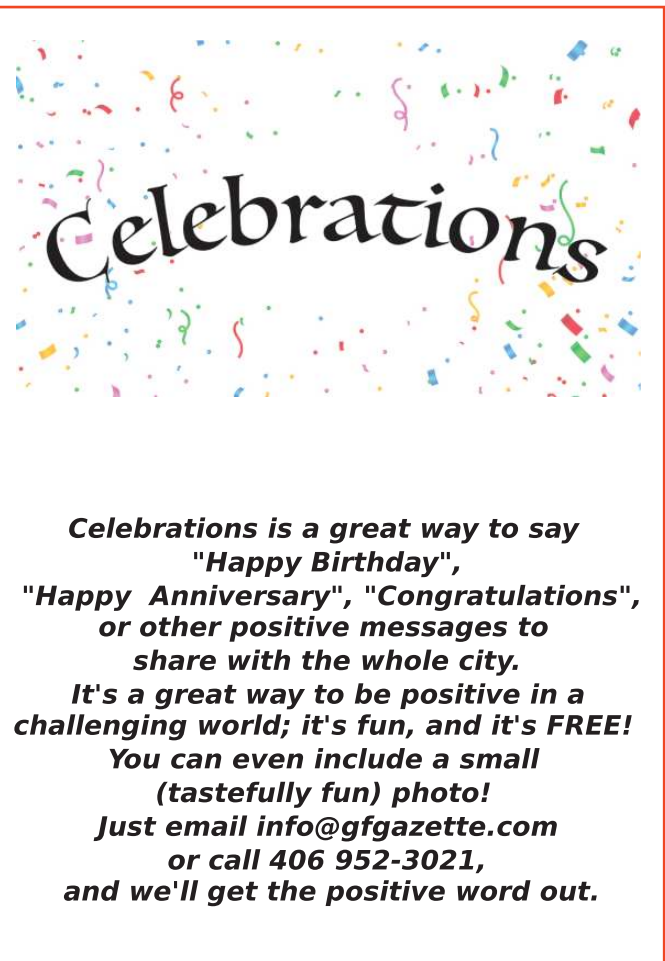
*Gospel Music Concert*

**The Johnson Brothers**  
Winter Gospel Concert

February 15th, 2026  
Potluck Dinner 5pm  
Concert 6pm

St John's 9th Ave South  
Great Falls, Montana

**Free Family Event!**



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**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.**

# Even Exchange

Donna M. Pettman

1. Menus, Minus
2. Fender, Lender
3. Starch, Search
4. Pitch, Pinch
5. Brisk, Brick
6. Oliver, Sliver
7. Stare, Scare
8. Falter, Filter
9. Trade, Trace
10. Noise, Poise



—KNIGHT MOVES—  
Answer

I	O	E
6	3	8
P		L
1		5
T	N	L
4	7	2

PLOTLINE

# Puzzles4Kids

Answer

What should you say  
to an angry polar bear?

Nothing. Just run away!

## CrimeStoppers Most Wanted



Donate to  
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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.



**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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Here at the Gazette, we've decided it's high time that Great Falls Experience a little deflation after all the inflation we've dealt with for the past few years.

We're announcing lower cover prices, with more publication days starting in February, 2026. The Great Falls Gazette has proven that we are all about Great Falls, and we are already the go-to source for local information, life stories, events, and all the news we can all use. The little paper that did will finally be a daily that you can look forward to, with news that matters to you!

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